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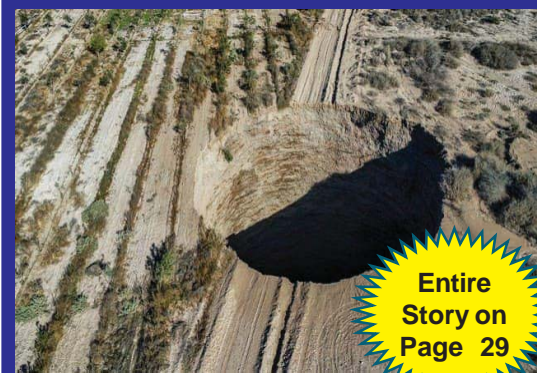
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**What is the Fifth Amendment,
invoked by Donald Trump to
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**Chile's giant sinkhole grows wide enough
to swallow India Gate: Everything you
need to know about phenomenon**



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History of popular slogans raised during the Indian independence movement

How did the famous slogans first come about, and where have they come from? Inspiring and controversial, we explain the history of slogans that have endured in India's politics



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**UK drying up as
Britain reels under
yet another heatwave**

Britain is reeling under yet another heat wave, and the government has issued an amber warning



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Story on
Page 29

2024 is no longer a 'done deal' for BJP : Bihar coup has changed India's political landscape

Thinking of India's electoral map as three strips shows BJP only has 'dominance' over one.
With no NDA left now, except in name, 2024 will be a challenge

(SAI Bureau) The history of India is essentially a history of Bihar", announced 'comrade' Daleep Singh, my Gandhian-Socialist colleague, as soon as he heard about Nitish Kumar's decision to dump Bharatiya Janata Party and join hands with Rashtriya Janata Dal to form a new government.

Enjoying his kite flying, he continued: "Ever since the days of Buddha, every major upheaval in this country has started in Bihar. Today, Nitish has begun an upheaval that would result in the end of the Modi government." I did not wish to quarrel with him.

(Contd. on page 28)



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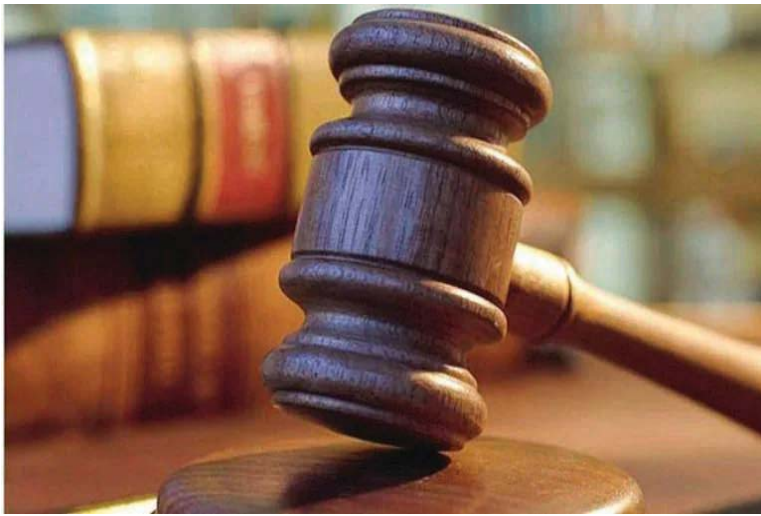
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Indian-origin man gets 4-year jail term in US for over \$4 million fraud

Jasminder Singh, 45, of Fremont in California was sentenced last week in the Eastern District of New York to four years in prison for defrauding American Express of nearly \$4.7 million



(SAI Bureau) An Indian-origin man has been sentenced to four years in prison for defrauding an American multinational credit card company of approximately \$4.7 million and for laundering the proceeds of his fraud. Jasminder Singh, 45, of Fremont in California was sentenced last week in the Eastern District of New York to four years in prison for defrauding American Express of nearly \$4.7 million.

According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, between November 2017 and December 2019, Singh used four business entities that he created and controlled and 10 American Express credit cards in those entities' names to purchase thousands of Apple

iPhones. An Indian-origin man has been sentenced to four years in prison for defrauding an American multinational credit card company of approximately \$4.7 million and for laundering the proceeds of his fraud. Jasminder Singh, 45, of Fremont in California was sentenced last week in the Eastern District of New York to four years in prison for defrauding American Express of nearly \$4.7 million. According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, between November 2017 and December 2019, Singh used four business entities that he created and controlled and 10 American Express credit cards in those entities' names to purchase thousands of Apple iPhones.

Missing Indian Woman Found In Pakistan After 20 Years Can't Wait To "Go Home"

The woman worked as a cook in Qatar and was promised a job in Dubai in 2002 by a recruitment agent in Mumbai. The agent duped her and trafficked her to Karachi

(SAI Bureau) Karachi: An Indian woman, who went missing 20 years ago after a recruitment agent in Mumbai promised her a job in Dubai but trafficked her to Pakistan, has been found with the help of a video on social media and is appealing to the Indian government to help her reunite with her family. Waliullah Maroof, who is an imam of a mosque in Karachi, said the Indian High Commission officials in Islamabad have contacted him and wanted to meet Hamidi Begum to send her back to Mumbai. "She is desperate to go home and reunite with her family as she now lives in Karachi with her stepson," Mr Maroof told PTI. Ms Hamidi said in an emotional voice on call that she had not seen her children and family for 20 years and wanted to

hug them. "I was able to speak to my daughter and granddaughter on video call but I want to meet them in person," she said. Ms Hamidi, who worked as a cook in Qatar, was promised a job in Dubai in 2002 by a recruitment agent in Mumbai. The agent duped her and trafficked her to Karachi.

From Karachi, she was taken to Hyderabad in Pakistan's Sindh province where she was locked up for three months. After her release, she married a Pakistani widower with a son.

According to Ms Maroof, the Indian woman's Pakistani husband passed away three years ago. He had moved into the neighbourhood in Karachi from Hyderabad 14 years ago.

"I knew there was a problem with this

lady because she always looked worried. When she told me her story, I decided to help her out by posting her video and story on YouTube from where luckily the Indian journalist named Khalfan Shaikh saw it and contacted me," he said.

Mr Maroof has used his social media accounts to also help women from Bangladesh - who had been trafficked into Pakistan - find their families.

He said those women, like Ms Hamidi, are illiterate and financially poor and it becomes difficult for them to find work in Pakistan. "They just accept their fate and live their lives but Ms Hamidi wanted to reunite with her family. She also remembered her Mumbai address and the name of her children and when we arranged the video call with her daughter

Yasmin Sheikh it was a very emotional moment for all of us," Mr Maroof said. Ms Hamidi regularly called her family while living abroad in Qatar and Riyadh. After 2002, when the agent tricked her after she paid her Rs 20,000, she lost contact with family members as she was locked up in a room and had no money. Her daughter Yasmin said that her mother would call them regularly when she lived abroad. The family waited for months for a phone call after Ms Hamidi left home in 2002 and finally approached the agent who had organised the trip. "She told us that our mother was well and didn't want to speak with us. We kept returning to ask questions about our mother, and then she (the agent) suddenly vanished," Ms Yasmin said.

USA Selects its Indian Beauty Queens

(SAI Bureau) Aarya Walvekar, 18, from Virginia has been crowned Miss India USA 2022 at the annual pageant held in New Jersey. "It has been my childhood dream to see myself on the silver screen and work in films and TV," said Aarya who is an aspiring actress. Her hobbies include exploring new places, cooking and debating. Saumya Sharma, a second year premedical student at the University of Virginia, was declared the first runner-up and Sanjana Chekuri of New Jersey was the second runner-up.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the pageant, which is the longest-running Indian pageant outside of India. Meanwhile, coming back to the pageant, as many as 74 contestants representing 30 US states participated in three different pageants - Miss India USA, Mrs. India USA and Miss Teen India USA. Akshi Jain from Washington State was crowned Mrs. India USA and Tanvi Grover from New York was crowned Miss Teen India USA. Pageant started with an opening dance number

for all contestants choreographed by Shilpa Jhurani and followed by Ethnic costume and talent performances by top five and question/answer. Winners of all three categories gets complimentary tickets to Mumbai to take part in worldwide pageants, also organized by the same organization, early next year. Started by New York based eminent Indian Americans Dharmatma and Neelam Saran, under the banner of Worldwide Pageants, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the pageant. Miss India USA is the longest running Indian pageant outside of India. This year pageant was presented by Morgan Stanley, and supported by TV Asia and Royal Albert's palace. It was a full house show with over 500 people in attendance. Dharmatma Saran, Chairman, presented an appreciation plaque to Padmashree Dr. H.R. Shah - Chairman of TV Asia

and Albert Jasani of Royal Albert's Palace for their continued support. Judging panel included Bollywood singer Shibani Kashyap, Swathi Vimal - the reigning Mrs. India Worldwide,



Aarya Walvekar, Miss India USA, Flanked by Akshi Jain - Mrs. India USA and Tanvi Grover - Miss Teen India USA.

Gietanjali Thakoor - National Director of Worldwide Pageants from Suriname, Sachin Mally CEO of Lucid Technologies, Sonika Krishna - Vice

President of UST Continuo Health and Diamandi Devereaux - Hollywood actor and model. Sumathi Narayanan, State Director of Connecticut, was awarded "State Director of the Year" award. Khushi Patel, the reigning Miss India Worldwide, attended the pageant as Special Guest. "In addition to Bollywood dance and songs on stage, they give speeches, do motivational speaking, mono acting, sing popular American songs, hip hop, paintings" said Dharmatma Saran. "We are very proud of the fact that we have been able to imbibe Indian values, traditions, cultures and performing arts among Indian origin youth across the world" with our motto "bringing India closer", said Dharmatma Saran. Esha Kode - The First Ever Miss Teen India Worldwide and Navya Paingol - the reigning Miss Teen India USA were emcees for the pageant. Nishi Bahl was the choreographer assisted by Shilpa Jhurani and Anushree Shah. Tabulation was done by Nilesh Choksi CPA.

How 30-Year-Old Celeb CEO's Rule Of Fear Led To A Hot Start-Up's Meltdown

At first glance, the implosion of vaunted fashion startup Zilingo Pte looked jarringly sudden. When the Singapore tech darling suspended its 30-year-old chief executive officer Ankita Bose over complaints about alleged financial irregularities, it was March. Within weeks, creditors were recalling loans, more than 100 staff had left, and Bose found herself fired, though she denies any wrongdoing. The company's survival is now in question.

The Zilingo meltdown has rattled the tech industry in Southeast Asia and beyond. The startup had raised more than \$300 million from some of the region's most prominent investors, including Temasek Holdings Pte and Sequoia Capital India, the regional arm of the Silicon Valley



firm that backed Apple Inc. and Google. Bose was a celebrity who crisscrossed the globe to speak at tech gatherings from Hong Kong to California. Interviews with more than 60 people, including current and former staff, merchants, investors, entrepreneurs and friends of the key players, suggest that Zilingo struggled for years under Bose's leadership. Bose's management style alienated employees and undermined the business, according to staff who worked under her. The startup veered from one strategy to another in pursuit of sales, including a \$1 million promotional trip in Morocco, loans to customers and a short-

lived push into the US. At one point, she became fixated on "crazy growth" to catch the attention of Japanese tech titan Masayoshi Son, according to two former employees with direct knowledge of the matter.

At the heart of the company's breakdown lies the soured relationship between Bose and her longtime supporter, Shailendra Singh, head of Sequoia India. Allies for years, they fell out as financial pressures mounted. Singh lost faith in the management skills of the young founder he had championed, while Bose believed Singh betrayed her by pushing her out of her own company, according to

people familiar with their relationship, who requested anonymity as the talks were private. The clash grew so acrimonious that Sequoia's lawyers demanded in a May legal notice that Bose stop making allegations that could tarnish Sequoia's reputation, the people said. Zilingo's turmoil highlights an apparent lax internal corporate governance culture that's not uncommon in the startup industry. For two years, the company failed to file annual financial statements, a basic requirement for all businesses of its size in Singapore. Auditor KPMG LLP has yet to sign off on Zilingo's FY20 results.

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Consulate General of India in New York and Indo-American Arts Council in association with Carnegie Hall

presents

FESTIVAL OF INDIAN MUSIC

August 13 -15, 2022

Carnegie Hall
881 7th Ave, New York, NY 10019

August 13, 7:00 PM
Kaushiki Chakraborty's Sakhin in Concert

August 14, 7:00 PM
SAATH SAATH
Purbayan Chatterjee & Rakesh Chaurasia featuring Taufiq Qureshi and Ojas Adhiya

August 15, 7:00 PM
Sarod Grand Master Amjad Ali Khan, Sarod Virtuosos Amaan Ali Bangash & Ayaan Ali Bangash with Refugee Orchestra Project. Lidiya Yankovskaya, Conductor

The Consulate General of India, New York in collaboration with Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC) has organized a series of events. It showcases the finest talents of India from the world of classical dance and music to celebrate the momentous occasion of India's 75 years of its Independence on 15th August, 2022.

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f i t y w

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Festival of Freedom

(SAI Bureau) On the 75th anniversary of India's independence, the Consulate General of India in New York, along with the Indo-American Arts Council is celebrating a Special Fortnight of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav - Festival of Freedom. The week-long festival will feature prominent Indian artists in the fields of music and dance, apart from a photo exhibition. The celebration aims to bring the best of Indian thought and culture to our friends in America and through them showcase the progress of our nation as a vibrant democracy.

The festival is part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations that began on March 12th, 2021 when Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi flagged off a march from Sabarmati to Dandi in remembrance of Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March on the same day in 1930. Since then, the Consulate General of India has organized over 200 events under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav within its jurisdiction with the valuable support and participation the vibrant diaspora community.



The festival begins on August 5th with a photo exhibition by celebrated photographer Steve McCurry at the Sundaram Tagore Gallery, who has captured India in all its beauty and mystique for over four decades. Celebrated photographer McCurry's most famous work is the portrait of the 'Afghan Girl'. McCurry has visited India over 80 times, but in his own words, he has "barely managed to scratch the surface". India has left a lasting impression on him and inspired him to create the work that is deeply evocative.

On August 6th and 7th, breathtaking performances in Indian dances will enthrall the audience at the Ailey Citigroup Theater. Talented exponents of various Indian dance forms such

as Sanjib Bhattacharya and Jagannath Lairenjam (Sapta, Manipuri-PungCholom), Kavya Ganesh (Contemporary Bharatanatyam), Bhavana Reddy (Solo Kuchipudi), Jin Won (Kathak) and Mythili Prakash (Contemporary Bharatanatyam) will bring the richness of Indian dance forms to the audience in New York. On August 8th, the Erasing Borders Dance Festival, a virtual program of Indian classical as well as contemporary dances will be broadcast online.

On August 11th and 12th, a beautiful blend of East and West in Jazz will be presented at Lincoln Center by Sachal Vasandani and friends. He has assembled a spellbinding collection of artists from East and West, including Grammy Award

nominee singer Priya Darshini, bassist Harish Raghavan (Charles Lloyd), Grammy-nominated pianist Orrin Evans, saxophonist Dayna Stephens, drummer Kush Abadey and singer Vanisha Gould.

Renowned vocalist Kaushiki Chakraborty, the star from Patiala Gharana, and her all-female Sakhi ensemble will present a concert at Carnegie Hall on August 13th. The Sakhi ensemble is an exemplary group of talented Indian artists that brings together voice, instruments, percussion, and dance representing the Indian woman of the 21st century, who is modern yet rooted.

On 14th August, the Saath-Saath ensemble will perform at the Carnegie Hall, featuring flute

maestro Rakesh Chaurasia, Sitar maestro Purbayan Chatterjee, master percussionist Taufiq Qureshi and Tabla player Ojas Adhia. The Saath-Saath ensemble brings you the spontaneity and improvisation within the discipline of Indian Classical Music that only they can produce.

The finale of this series is on 15th August, featuring India's celebrated Sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, who ranks among the best in the world, along with his team of instrumentalists and the Refugee Orchestra at the Carnegie Hall. The ensemble would present a synthesis of musical traditions motivated by Mahatma Gandhi's principles of truth, non-violence and peace. The Consulate General of India invites members of diaspora, lovers of India and Indian culture and American friends to enjoy this cultural extravaganza, celebrating the success of India's democratic polity and progress as an inclusive, multi-cultural and diverse nation, one that has contributed to the well-being of its people and as much to the peace and harmony of the world at large.

India's March Towards Aatmanirbharta



- Amb. (Dr.) Mohan Kumar

It was in May 2020 that Indian Prime Minister Modi made a clarion call for a Bharat that was "Aatmanirbhar". It is important to clarify what this meant and what it did not. While a rough translation of the word is no doubt "self-reliant", it is nevertheless not the kind of self-reliance that India arguably believed and practiced in the early years of its independence up until the seventies and eighties. It is easy to state what it is not. It is certainly not autarchy; it is certainly not inward-looking; and it is most certainly not stopping imports and making every product at home. It may be more prudent to think of "Aatmanirbharta" as Self-Reliance 2.0.

In this framework of Self-Reliance 2.0, the PM clarified that rather than be self-centred, India will open up even more to the world outside,

guided by its motto: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, or our Earth is just one family. PM Modi went on to say that Aatmanirbharta will stand on five pillars: economy, infrastructure, technology, demography and demand. PM explained the raison d'être of Aatmanirbharta by saying that this should prepare India for participation in global supply chains and that this is a battle India cannot afford to lose.

There is little doubt that the global pandemic i.e. COVID-19, played a significant role in India's push for Self-Reliance 2.0. Take the simple example of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and N-95 masks. At the beginning of the pandemic, India was not making any N-95 masks. Today, India manufactures at least 200,000 N-95 masks a day, if not more. Even more impressive is India's own record of vaccinating its mammoth population. In 2020 when COVID emerged, almost no one believed India could ever fully vaccinate its population and that such an exercise would take years and years. Yet, in July 2022, about 18 months the first vaccination began, India completed 2 billion doses of

vaccines for its citizens. The story of how this was achieved is worthy of a case study which will cover vital issues such as public-private partnership, centre-state cooperation and not to mention building awareness among citizens and getting their participation willingly in this exercise. Indeed, the WHO and others have praised India and the best practices here will be emulated the world over. Proving that Self-Reliance 2.0 is not just for Indians, India also exported a large number of vaccines and PPE countries all over the world. The latest statistics from the MEA website talks of 240 million (approx) vaccines which have been delivered to 101 countries, of which there are developed, developing and least-developed countries. The story of India being the pharmacy of the world is too well known to bear any repetition here. All of this is real "aatmanirbharta" at work.

The COWIN platform that India used for distributing vaccines to its mammoth population was remarkable. COWIN is essentially a cloud-based IT solution for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating COVID vaccination in India. By July 2021, India

decided to make this open platform available to all countries for their use. In the COWIN global conclave organized in July 2021, as many as 142 countries in the world expressed interest in adopting this platform. Again, this is Aatmanirbharta at work.

The war in Ukraine has had a profound impact not just in Europe, but more importantly for developing and least-developed countries. Specifically, the war has impacted food, energy and commodity prices adversely. Wheat shortage in particular, is expected to affect Africa and the Middle-East quite significantly. At a time like this, it is comforting to know that India's position for its huge population is satisfactory. This is yet another manifestation of Self-Reliance 2.0. Indeed, not only was India able to give away food-grains and lentils to 800 million of its citizens as part of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, India was also able to carry out modest exports of food-grains to low income countries that needed it. Again, Aatmanirbharta at work.

Yet another amazing success

story of Aatmanirbharta is the case of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) which is a government-backed centralized digital payment gateway, widely popular in India. To understand the significance of UPI, consider this: India accounted for the largest number of worldwide digital transactions in 2021 at a whopping 48 billion, a number that is nearly three times bigger than China's (18 billion) and is at least six times bigger than the transactions of US, Canada, UK, France and Germany combined. Voices in the US are saying that we must learn from India which is leapfrogging into the future. Again, Aatmanirbharta at work.

The above is not to suggest that everything is rosy. India faces monumental challenges with regard to eradication of poverty, job creation and investment in health/education/skills of its vast population. But the lessons are clear: India is sui generis and it is only an "Indian" model that will work for India and Indians. Hence, the capital importance of Aatmanirbharta. After all, as we have seen above, 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' is not just good for India but also for the world at large.

India - A Vibrant Democracy and A Pluralistic Society



- Ambassador A. R. Ghanshyam
Introduction

For much of the two thousand years of the Common Era, India was the largest economy contributing a third of the global output. Archaeological evidence traces the origins of ancient India's Indus Valley Civilization to the 5th millennium before the Common Era. During medieval times too India witnessed several glorious empires and great civilizations spread across millions of miles under enlightened emperors. Towards the last quarter of the last millennium, India came under the influence of East India Company for almost a century during 18th and 19th centuries. Thereafter the Sepoy Mutiny in 1857 compelled the British to place India directly under the British Crown for another ninety years. For almost two centuries, therefore, India was anchored to Great Britain serving the interests of only the British Empire. Of all the colonies the British conquered, controlled and immensely benefited from it was India that was by far the biggest and the wealthiest and was often referred to as the Jewel in the (British) Crown. Before finally leaving India the British divided the Indian subcontinent into two countries in three parcels - India, Pakistan West and Pakistan East. India's population then was 330 million and the GDP was INR 2.7 trillion - a paltry 3% of the global GDP. A country which accounted for a third of the global output for much of two millennia before had thus been bled bone dry by the colonial masters.

Independent India

Independent India has witnessed seventeen free and fair Parliamentary Elections with fifteen Prime Ministers at the helm - each contributing his/her mite to the growth, stability and development of the Indian Nation, its society and economy. How individual Prime Ministers of India tried to build a modern India from the debris of two centuries' rule by the British Empire is in itself a great story and has been narrated by many authors, Indian and foreign.

In the seventy five years since independence, India has negotiated a difficult, at times

treacherous, journey replete with five wars (1948, 1962, 1965, 1971 and 1999) and facing frequent occurrence of natural calamities i.e. floods, famines, droughts and epidemics. Two of its elected Prime Ministers were brutally assassinated and a third died mysteriously after signing the Ceasefire Agreement in the Soviet city of Tashkent post the India-Pakistan 1965 War. A stretch of 21 months during 1975-77 remains an aberration in India's otherwise uninterrupted democracy when fundamental rights of Indian citizens were suspended during the period of national emergency.

Progress achieved

Much water has flown in the Ganga since India attained her independence. During 1950-51 the contributions to Indian GDP by agriculture, industry and services sectors were 56%, 15% and 29% respectively. Agriculture employed the largest work-force of 72% with Manufacturing and Services providing 10% and 18% jobs respectively. Today the service sector accounts for 54% of Indian GDP. The Industry and agriculture follow with 25.92% and 20.19% respectively.

Life expectancy on the eve of independence was 32 years. It has now gone up to 70 years. In 1950, infant mortality rate in India was 145.6/1000 live births and maternal mortality ratio in the 1940s was 2000/100,000 live births which declined to 1000 in the 1950s. There were just 50,000 doctors across the entire country and the number of primary healthcare centres was 725. Today, infant mortality is 27.7 per 1000 births and

maternal mortality rate is 103 per 100,000. India now has more than 1.2 million doctors. There are 54,618 Sub-Health Centres (SHC), 21,898 Primary Health Centres (PHC) and 4,155 Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHC), as on December 8, 2021. There are as many as 70,000 public and private hospitals. As of April 5, 2022 there were 117,771 Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) are operational in India apart from 748 e-Hospitals established across the country as part of the 'Digital India' initiative of the government.

As for education, when the British left India there were 210,000 primary schools, 13,600 middle schools and 7,416 higher secondary schools in India apart from 498 colleges and 27 Universities. Today there are 1.6 million schools, 42,343 colleges and a thousand Universities. More than 250 million children are going to school today in India and close to 40 million are enrolled in our Universities.

India survived a devastating once in a century pandemic of Covid 19 and its economy contracted by 7.3% in the financial year 2020-21. It may be some consolation that this contraction was lower than in other major economies. As per latest available estimates the growth rate of GDP for 2021-22 is pegged at 8.7% which has to be seen in the context of 7.3% contraction in the preceding year. India is bound together as a great nation by the strength and stability of its democracy, the rule of law and a breath taking diversity of its populace in terms of religion,

language, culture, climate, history, geography and more. At the time of India's first census in 1951 Hindus were 305 million (84.1%), Muslims 35.4 million (9.8%), Christians 8.3 million and Sikhs 6.86 million (1.9%). In 2022 the estimated population is 1090 million Hindus (79.80%), 200 million Muslims (14.23%), 31.2 million Christians (2.3%), 23.7 million Sikhs (1.72%), 9.6 million Buddhists (0.70%), 5.1 million Jains (0.37%) and 9.1 million (0.66%) other religions and 3.3 million (0.24%) religion not stated. There are two million Hindu temples, 300,000 active mosques, 8,114 Jain temples a few of them abroad, more than 125 Buddhist temples, monasteries, stupas and pagodas, some 35 Jewish synagogues etc. At the time of independence many predicted that India will splinter into pieces based on caste, creed, tribe, language, culture etc., but she has remained in one piece and stronger than ever.

Future Prospects

In the last ten years, despite a sliding down of growth rates since 2016 till the economy picked up this year and a significant unemployment burden haunting policy makers in the country, there is a quiet revolution taking place in the arena of technology, digitization and innovation spearheaded by young Indian companies. The government's Atmanirbharta crusade has given an impetus to it. Latest research of the Indian economy in the last ten years by analyst Ruchir Sharma has a few exciting revelations. In 2011 India had 55 Billionaires with a cumulative wealth of US \$ 256 billion which was then equivalent

to 13.5% of India's GDP. Ten years later in 2021 India hosts 140 billionaires with the cumulative wealth US\$ 596 billion equivalent to 19.6% of the GDP. Sharma adds that 110 of these are new Billionaires created during the course of just last decade. At the time of independence India was the sixth largest economy in the world. In 2021 it retains the same position which is no mean achievement with India's population having more than quadrupled.

Notwithstanding the above, there is no room for complacency because (a) India still have a large population that lives below the poverty line, estimated by the World Bank at 140 million which is 10% of the population, (b) the formal and informal sectors may not be able to absorb the large number of educated young who are passing out of colleges (2022 estimate is 10.76 million), (c) external and internal factors will keep haunting the policy establishment in its effort to achieve double digit GDP growth rate which is the need of the hour for India. Be that as it may India also has several advantages - (i) a median age of less than 30 years, (ii) a strong and focussed government, (iii) growing market, and, (iv) an innovative Indian youth. If India persists with its pursuit of building and consolidating its infrastructure, keeps the society cohesive and harmonious, stabilizes predictable consistency in policy formulation and implementation, a brighter future can be ensured for its future generations.

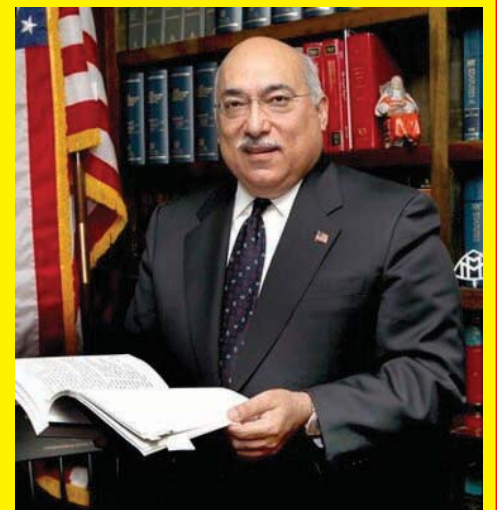
[Ambassador A. R. Ghanshyam is a retired Indian diplomat who has served as Ambassador of India to Angola and High Commissioner of India to Nigeria]

From The Law Firm of Ravi Batra on India's 75th Independence Day

As the World turns and flirts with easier autocracies, democracy - self-rule with individual Freedoms - turns to its roots to rediscover and resurrect its passion so that we may have Governments that are 'for the people,' rather than 'people for' autocratic governments.

Like the American Revolution with our Revolutionary Heroes, India too had many to free her from the same colonial yoke. As Americans of Indian ancestry, we can celebrate both the sets of Heroes who choose Freedom and Independence and now look magnanimously at the people of Great Britain as our cousins. That India and United States are joined in history and our people here a collective dream is awesome and more precious now than ever. From P. M. Nehru who wished a tryst with destiny through non-alignment, PM Modi has embraced us, the United States to reach a better destiny for India. We wish him and every Indian, freedoms in perpetuity.

To our indivisible partner: Happy 75th Independence



Lawyer Ravi Batra

USNS Charles Drew: A floating gas station, grocery & hardware store, post office

(SAI Bureau) The USNS Charles Drew, an American Navy cargo ship, arrived in an Indian shipyard for repair and allied activities, marking a significant step forward for India-US relations and the Indian shipbuilding industry. The US Navy has awarded a contract to private firm L & T's Shipyard in Kattupalli, near Chennai in southern India. The vessel will spend days at the private shipyard to undergo repair work in various areas.

The USNS Charles Drew:

The vessel is known as the United States' Military Sealift Command's Lewis and Clark-class dry cargo ship, USNS Charles Drew. The Charles Drew is a cargo-carrier vessel that provides critical support to the U.S. Navy fleet operating in the Indo-Pacific Region.?

The ships of MSC's CLF (Military Sealift Command Combat Logistics Force) are the supply lines to U.S. Navy ships at sea. These ships provide virtually everything US Navy ships need, including fuel, food, fleet ordnance and dry cargo, spare parts, mail, and other supplies. ? All CLF ships are government-owned and

operated by U.S. government civil service mariners. In addition to U.S. Navy ships, Military Sealift Command's Combat Logistics Force also r e s u p p l i e s international partners and allies operating in the Indo-Pacific Region. CLF ships enable the US Navy fleet to remain at sea and combat ready for extended periods of time. ? The USNS Charles Drew is 689 ft long, 106 ft wide,

has a displacement of 41,000 tons, and can travel at a speed of 20 knots. The ship is manned by a 53-member crew and can carry over 6,600 tonnes of dry cargo, over 1,700 tonnes of refrigerated stores, and 18,000 barrels of cargo fuel. A barrel is a unit of volume equal to 42 U.S. gallons or 9702.0 cubic inches. The USNS Charles Drew is designed to carry 63% more cargo than previous AE and AFS classes of ships, and it can

accommodate two vertical replenishment helicopters. What Indian and US officials said about the Charles Drew visit "We



are indeed pleased to welcome US Naval Ship USNS Charles Drew to India for making her voyage ready," India's Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar said. India's initiative also assumes special significance in furthering the strategic partnership between India and the US. It marks the beginning of a new chapter for deeper engagement. " He added that the arrival of USNS Charles Drew for repairs was a sign of a maturing

Indian shipbuilding industry. "Today, India has six major shipyards with a turnover of nearly \$2 billion. We are making ships not only for our own requirements. We have our own design house and are capable of making all kinds of state-of-the-art ships. The country's first indigenous aircraft carrier, Vikrant, is a shining example of the growth of the Indian shipbuilding industry. US Consul General in Chennai, Ms. Judith Ravin, said: "In April, at the US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin affirmed their intention to explore utilising Indian shipyards for repairs on US Navy vessels. This first-ever repair of USNS Charles Drew is a landmark development to be celebrated as a symbol of our strengthened US-India partnership. The Defence Attaché at the US Embassy in New Delhi. Rear Admiral Michael Baker said, "Our shipping industries positively contribute to a free and open Indo-Pacific by partnering to deliver effective, efficient, and economical repair of military vessels."

Kashmir: Women in Kupwara are making special national flags for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign

(News Agency) The women from a small hamlet in North Kashmir's Kupwara district are making handmade embroidered Indian National Flags.

These flags would be unfurled in homes and offices across India for the "Har Ghar Tiranga" Campaign on the 75th Independence Day. These flags are unique as the Ashoka Chakra on these flags has been

done using the traditional Kashmiri crewel artisanship.

Around 50 women in Kawari and Kunan Poshpora village have come together for this initiative supported by the Indian Army. They are working day and night to make these flags as the orders are pouring in. "I want to thank Indian Army who helped me with setting up the centre. They have provided me with all the stuff like stitching machines and raw material. I am extremely proud that I have started my work by making Indian National Flag. I am extremely happy; our Indian army soldiers lay their life for this National pride, and I am able to make it. The army gave me everything to start this initiative. I make around 100 flags in day, these days we are working very hard as we have a huge order to complete. I work for 12 hours and when I reach home I still keep working till midnight. Earlier,



these flags were not made in Kupwara and when they gave me the order it was a proud feeling. I am supplying it to Kupwara at the moment and now I want to send them across India. I want these flags to be hoisted in every house of India," said Nazima Samundar, Centre Head.

For the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, tri-colour flags are

being made across the country, but the ones made by these women stand out. The handwork done on these flags sets them apart from the rest and that is one of the reasons that the demand for these flags has gone up. One woman is able to make one or two embroidered Ashoka Chakra's in a day. It was the Idea of Indian Army CO along with our chairman to put crewel hand work on the Indian National Flag. We were given a target to make them, and we continue to make. We make two chakras with handwork every day. We are around 30 girls here and we are making 60 flags. We want our artisanship to reach every house of India. Our workmanship on the flag is very unique and completely hand work of our artisans," said Sabika Nazir. These women with the help of Indian Army are all ready to venture into e-commerce and put up their products for internet users across the world.

End of JD(U)-BJP alliance in Bihar? Nitish Kumar's key meet today

(News Agency) Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has called a key meeting of Janata Dal (United) MLAs and MPs on Tuesday, August 9 amid rumours of an impending split with the BJP. The current crisis was fuelled by the exit of former JD(U) national president RCP Singh, believed to be close to the BJP. On Monday, Janata Dal's bitter rival Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Congress and Left parties indicated that they would support JD(U) if it ditched BJP.

Besides, a day ahead of the key meeting, the JD(U) said whatever decision is taken under the leadership of Nitish Kumar will be accepted by everyone in the organisation. Here are the top points.

1) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday dialled Nitish Kumar ahead of a key JD(U) meeting. However, the conversion, which lasted for around seven minutes, did not yield any tangible solution to the current crisis. The BJP has also asked its leaders not to comment on the controversy and to wait for Nitish Kumar's decision tomorrow.

2) Amid reports of a growing rift with the BJP, JD(U) MPs and MLAs have been asked to gather in Patna on Tuesday.

The members of Parliament, who are in Delhi for the Monsoon session, are expected to arrive in Patna by this evening. "Whatever decision is taken by the party under Nitish Kumar's leadership will be accepted by every JD(U) member", party spokesperson KC Tyagi was quoted as saying by PTI.

3) This came after top JDU leader RCP Singh quit the party and lashed out at the Bihar chief minister. RCP Singh was accused by his own party, the JDU, of rampant corruption.

4) RJD national vice-president Shivanand Tiwary on Monday said that convening meetings of legislators by both parties were a clear indication that the situation was extraordinary.

"If Nitish chooses to dump NDA, what choice do we have except to embrace. RJD is committed to fighting the BJP. If the chief minister decides to join this fight, we will have to take him along," said Tiwary.

5) The RJD is the single-largest party in Bihar. The combined strength of the RJD, the Chief Minister's JDU, and the Congress, is enough to form a new government that would keep the BJP out of power.

Sanjay Raut 'very influential', may tamper with evidence: ED in custody plea



The Enforcement Directorate on Monday asked a Mumbai court to send Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut to judicial custody as he may tamper with evidence

(News Agency) Arrested Shiv Sena Member of Parliament (MP) Sanjay Raut was sent to judicial custody till August 22 on Monday. Sanjay Raut was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an alleged land scam case. The agency had arrested Raut on August 1 and the Shiv Sena leader has been in the custody of the ED ever since then. On Monday, the ED did not seek further custody of Sanjay Raut but demanded

that he be sent to judicial custody since he is a "very influential person against whom allegations of threatening witnesses have surfaced" and who "may tamper with evidence".

The ED accused Sanjay Raut of fraudulently buying land and properties in Alibaug. The agency claimed it is investigating fraudulent activities that have allegedly resulted in

more than Rs 1000 crore.

According to the ED's remand plea filed before a special court, the investigation so far has pointed to over Rs 3 crore of fraudulent or suspicious transactions linked to either Sanjay Raut or his wife Varsha Raut. While presenting Raut before the court on Monday, the ED said, "The identity of three accounts has been established. After scrutiny of these accounts [and] on the basis of further leads, letters have been issued to various banks calling for further details. Scrutiny of remaining accounts is under progress." The ED said that the scrutiny of these accounts and other related accounts will take more time.

The ED also accused Sanjay

Raut of not explaining his links to the transactions satisfactorily and of giving "evasive replies". The agency said that it is investigating a total amount of more than Rs 1000 crore as proceeds of crime in connection with the Patra Chawl land scam case in which Raut was arrested. Further probe is required to unearth the roles played by the accused as well as the involvement of any other persons to identify the full proceeds of the crime, the agency told the court.

"The release of the accused at this stage will hamper the investigation. Being a very influential person against whom allegations of threatening witnesses have surfaced, it is apprehended that he may

tamper with the evidence and ensure that the trail of PoC [proceeds of crime] is completely obfuscated and may not be recovered, which will frustrate the ongoing investigation under PMLA [Prevention of Money Laundering Act]," the ED said while demanding that Raut be sent to judicial custody.

Following the ED's appeal, special judge MG Deshpande, who was hearing the matter, sent Raut to judicial custody till August 22. However, taking note of medical papers submitted by Raut's lawyer, Vikrant Sabne ordered that the Sena leader be allowed to continue to have home-cooked food and his required medication while in judicial custody.

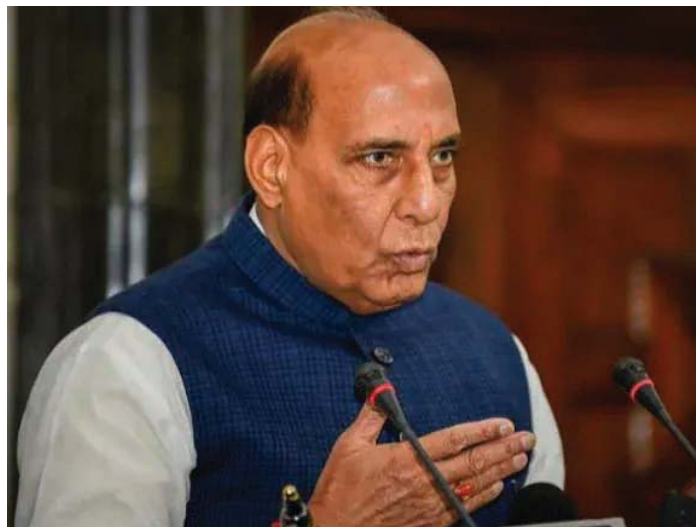
Defence ministry notifies fourth positive indigenisation list to achieve self-reliance

A series of Positive Indigenisation Lists of defence weapons and equipment which would not be imported from abroad have been promulgated

(News Agency) As part of the efforts to achieve self-reliance in defence manufacturing and minimize imports by the Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), a positive indigenisation list has been notified by the Department. The list includes 2,500 imported items which have already been indigenized and 351 high-value imported items which will be indigenised in the next three years. Out of 351 items, 147 items have already been indigenised. The Government has introduced a comprehensive revamped 'Make and Innovation' procedure to reduce dependency on arms and promote indigenous manufacturing of defence equipment. The 'Make and Innovation' procedure has been introduced in DAP-20 to facilitate indigenous design and development of defence equipment through private participation with both government funding and industry funding. A series of Positive Indigenisation Lists of defence weapons and equipment which would not be imported from abroad have been promulgated. The first Positive Indigenisation list comprising of 101 items was promulgated in August 2020, the second Positive Indigenisation List comprising of 108 items was promulgated in May 2021 and the third Indigenisation list comprising of 101 items was promulgated in April 2022.

This information was given by Junior Defence Minister Ajay Bhatt in a written reply to Sandosh Kumar P in Rajya Sabha on Monday. A separate procedure for the 'Make-II' category

(Industry funded) has been notified to encourage indigenous development and manufacture of defence equipment. A number of industry friendly provisions



such as relaxation of eligibility criterion, minimal documentation, provision for considering proposals suggested by industry/ individuals etc. have been introduced in this procedure. So far, 72 projects relating to the Army, Navy & Air Force, have been accorded 'Approval in Principle'. 38 Acceptance of Necessity (AONs), 05 prototypes developed and 2 procurement contracts have been signed by the Services. In line with the budget announcement for the financial year 2022-2023 of allocating 25% of the Defence Research and Development (R&D) budget for industry led R&D, 18 major platforms have been approved by the government for industry led Design

and Development under Make I, Make II, SPV Model and iDEX routes. An innovation ecosystem for Defence titled Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)

has been launched in April, 2018 to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and Academia.

iDEX route of procurement has been simplified and timelines have been compressed from 2 years earlier to just five months by reforming the trial process. The Government has approved a Scheme with an outlay of Rs 498.78 crore (2021-22 to 2025-26) to push innovation and support start-ups in the defence and aerospace sectors. This will enable more than 300 start-ups to participate in the new design and development projects and also support 20 partner incubators. Another list of DPSUs for indigenization of 107 Line Replaceable Units (LRUs)/ Sub-systems of high value platform was notified on 28.03.2022. As on date, 4 LRUs have been indigenised; 5 LRUs are at trial stage and 31 LRUs are at design and development stage. An indigenisation

portal, namely SRIJAN, has been launched in August, 2020 for DPSUs/ OFB/Services with an industry interface to provide development support to MSMEs/Start-ups/Industry for import substitution.

PROMOTE INDIGENIOUS MANUFACTURING

So far, more than 21,000 defence items, which were earlier imported, have been displayed on the portal. 388 private vendors have expressed interest in indigenising more than 4,700 items and so far 410 items have been indigenised. Further, the Make-II route of procurement has been simplified and timelines have been compressed from 2 years earlier to just 5 months by reforming the trial process. As part of the ease of doing business, the export procedure has been simplified and made completely online. This has resulted in an exponential increase in the number of Export Authorizations issued. The Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) has been formulated to create 6 to 8 Greenfield Defence Testing Infrastructures in the country and attain 'Aatmanirbharta' in the Defence Testing Infrastructure for the domestic industry. As part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the Government organised an event 'AiDef' on July 11, 2022 where, for the first time, 75 defence specific Artificial Intelligence (AI) products were launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. During the event, three AI products of DPSUs were also launched for the market.

In Delhi, Lithuanian MPs laud ties with India and back Taiwan



(NewsAgency) Amid the Taiwan crisis, a Lithuanian Inter Parliamentary delegation consisting of two Ministers of Parliament (MPs) is in Delhi and is holding talks with several stakeholders with a focus on strengthening ties and the opening of the Indian embassy in the national capital, Vilnius. The delegation is led by MPs Mykolas Majauskas and Vytautas Gapšys, both of whom are members of the Group of Inter-

Parliamentary Relations with India.

Speaking to WION, MP Mykolas Majauskas said, "India is a global superpower and a great democratic nation. Lithuania sees India as a stable, stable, thoughtful, and careful partner that every country would like to have. Of course, Lithuania can not only learn from the past of India but can learn from the recent past, how India managed to vaccinate a lot of

people." Mykolas is also the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for Budget and Finance. Both the MPs held talks at the ruling BJP headquarters in Delhi on Tuesday, alongside RS Prasad, Dilip Saikia and Gaurav Bhatia. The Lithuanian delegation also met Indian MPs and business leaders in Mumbai and Bengaluru.

Earlier this year, India's cabinet approved the opening of a new embassy in Lithuania, and an Indian preparatory team has visited the country for a recce of the site. The MP pointed out, "We hope to tighten our relationship. It is very important to know that this year, there will be an Indian embassy opening in Lithuania. That shows our significance and relationship between the countries have been developing" and "we hope that it will all happen this year. That was the promise from the Indian government." Remember that both India and Lithuania do share a common language, with Lithuanian tracing its origins from Sanskrit, and both have similar words. Both countries are also celebrating 30 years of the establishment of diplomatic ties.

Asked about if Taiwan was discussed during the meeting in Delhi, he said, "We touched on that subject. Our main principle, our main idea is we talk about the partnerships that we like to develop and the partnership we value a lot is India ". Last year was very

significant in Lithuania-Taiwan ties as the latter opened its office in the capital Vilnius which angered China. A miffed Beijing recalled its envoy from Lithuania and expelled the Lithuanian envoy in the country. On the ongoing crisis developing over Taiwan with Chinese military exercises, and what is Lithuania's view, the MP explained, "our presence here ,in Delhi, is the main message. We choose India as a stable, thoughtful, and careful partner and therefore we are here. It's a democracy, it's a country we respect, it's a country we would like to tighten our relationship. ", adding, "we do respect one China policy but that doesn't stop us from developing economic and cultural ties with Taiwan". Interestingly, MP Vytautas Gapšys was part of a Lithuanian Parliamentary delegation to visit Taiwan last year, another sign of growing closeness between Vilnius and Taipei. On that visit, he said, "each country has the right to own economic and cultural relations and Lithuania decided that we should improve those relations with Taiwan as well, so the visit was to show we share the same values, democracy values as we share with India and the visit was a real success".

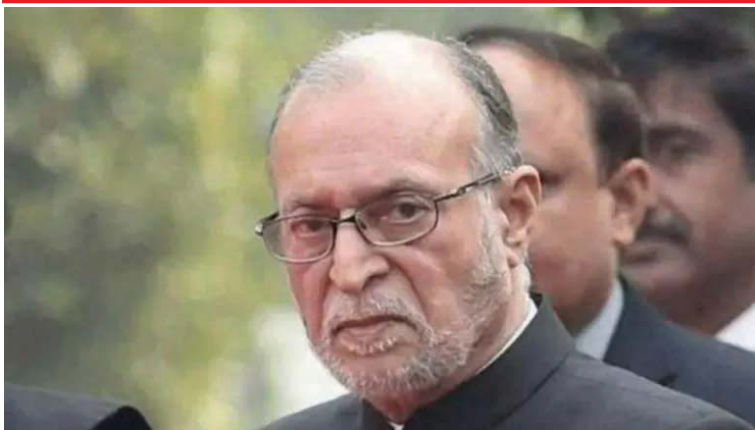
Mentioning Taiwan's semiconductor industry, he hoped his country "could learn new things from there and we have some educational exchanges as well. Our

students will go to Taiwan and our professors, possibly will go to Lithuania, so I hope those practices we have in Taiwan will also be useful in developing relations with India as well". Lithuania is the only country in the European Union to publicly back the visit of US House speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan. Currently, Lithuania's Transport and Communications Vice Minister, Agne Vaiciukeviciute, is on a visit to Taipei.

On Pelosi's visit and Chinese military exercises thereafter, he said, "of course it is a complicated situation, and we understand that it is a difficult time for Taiwan. As I mentioned, in the case of Lithuania, other countries like the US, they have the right to decide who wants to come to visit Taiwan, we respect their right. If all countries look from that point of view, no conflict will happen. Respect other country's rights as well". Asked about China threatening Lithuania with actions, Gapšys said, "we would like to have good relationships with each country in the world. We are a sovereign country and have the right to decide with whom we have cultural and economic relations and it's our right. We understand that China takes some attention to that topic, we understand as well that the international rule of law prohibits some actions from their side as well". The MP called India a "major partner" for Lithuania and "economic potential is a huge one", hoping the "relation will improve much more".

'Baseless, motivated': Ex-Delhi Lieutenant Governor hits out at AAP over excise policy

Ex-Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal lashed out at Deputy CM Manish Sisodia over the excise policy and rejected the charges levelled against him by the Aam Aadmi Party



(By Staff Reporter) Former Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal rejected charges levelled against him by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia over the alleged irregularities in the implementation of the excise policy and termed them "baseless and motivated". Baijal said Sisodia was perpetrating falsehood and called him a "desperate man trying to save his own skin". "The charges are nothing but blatant lies and falsehoods being perpetrated by a desperate man to save his own skin," he said. Sisodia, who also holds the Excise portfolio in the Kejriwal government, had on

last Saturday accused Baijal, who was then LG, of changing his stand on the excise policy and blocking liquor vendors in non-conforming areas of Delhi by putting a condition. Baijal also said that he flagged several unlawful decisions taken by the AAP government in the matter. Incidentally, the Delhi government had already rolled back the policy. "I had discharged by constitutional responsibility of upholding the law of the land," he added. Meanwhile, Delhi LG VK Saxena has already recommended a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the implementation of the new excise policy.

Bhagavad Gita will be taught in schools if BJP voted to power in Bengal: Suvendu Adhikari

BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari said if voted to power, the party would include Bhagavad Gita in the school syllabus

(By Staff Reporter) Suvendu Adhikari, Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, on Monday said that if voted to power, the BJP will include Bhagavad Gita in the school syllabus. Speaking after taking part in a blood donation camp in East Midnapore district, Adhikari said, "Gita is not only a religious book. In Gujarat, Gita has been included in the school syllabus. If a nationalistic government comes to power in Bengal with the people's blessing, we will



include Gita in school textbooks also," he added. A copy of the Bhagavad Gita was distributed at the event organised by the district BJP. Earlier, the Gujarat government had decided to include Shrimad Bhagavad Gita in the school syllabus for Classes 6-12. A circular issued by the state government in this regard said the idea is to "cultivate a sense of pride and connection to traditions".

Why is India a success story when it comes to gender diversity in airline industry?

(By Staff Reporter) India has the highest percentage of female pilots globally at 12.4 per cent, according to an estimate released by the International Society of Women Airline Pilots. In comparison, developed countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom are lagging behind with just 5.5 per cent and 4.7 per cent of female pilots, respectively. India is setting an example for other countries and sectors striving to get more women into their ranks.

Several airlines are facing a staff crunch due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and hiring more women could help resolve these issues. While several studies have even shown that female pilots cause fewer safety incidents, even businesses that are more diverse tend to perform better. From outreach programmes to improved

corporate policies and strong family support, Indian women are being encouraged by a string of factors. By

granting scholarships and subsidising commercial pilot training, state governments are helping women to get employed in the sector. Michele Halleran, a professor and director of diversity

initiatives at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida, told Bloomberg that "India has started decades ago recruiting women into STEM positions, including pilots." "In the US, we have only started the demand for a diversity movement in aviation because of our current drastic

pilot and technician shortage." In order to retain female talent, Vistara offers pregnant pilots and cabin crew



the option of temporary jobs on the ground or administrative roles.

Meanwhile, India's largest passenger airline, IndiGo is offering flexibility to women pilots and crew to continue working safely. With a bigger total staff of both men and women, the absolute numbers of women pilots still

tend to be higher in developed countries than in India due to much larger airline markets in the US. Hiring more women can ease a persistent deficit of pilots and airport workers that is forcing airlines to reduce and cancel flights. In the next two decades, the world will need more than 600,000 new pilots, according to Boeing Company. Aviation Safety Network reported that since 1945, the US had almost five times as many fatal air accidents as India. Crash rates for male pilots exceeded that of women as per a study that assessed airplane and helicopter crash data between 1983 and 1997. According to 'Women in Combat Arms: A Study of the Global War on Terror', women operate aircraft "more safely" accounting for only 3 per cent of accidents even as they constituted 10 per cent of all US army helicopter pilots.

Har Ghar Tiranga: UP BJP to hoist tricolour in 5 lakh Muslim households, madrasas and dargahs

The UP BJP plans to hoist the tricolour at around 5 lakh Muslim households, madrasas and dargahs to bolster its 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign to mark the 75th year of Independence

(SAI Bureau The Uttar Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Minority front will reach out to around five lakh Muslim families under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign from August 12.

The party is planning to hoist the national flag in at least 5 lakh Muslim homes. We will also reach dargahs and madrasas during the campaign. The exercise is being planned as the dargah can spread the message widely. People, essentially Muslims, easily get attached to dargahs and madrasas," state BJP Minority Morcha president Basit Ali said.

Party sources said the 'Pasmanda' (backward community among Muslims)

will be given special focus during the campaign after PM Narendra Modi emphasised on expanding the party's reach among them.

The party cadre will hoist the flag at madrasas and dargahs and get photos clicked to be uploaded on social media platforms to give edge to the party's nationalist campaign among minorities. The move comes two months after the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board made singing the national anthem mandatory before the start of classes.

BJP TRYING TO WOO MUSLIMS

Soon after coming to power in 2017, the BJP had made the recitation of the

national anthem and flag hoisting on Independence Day mandatory in madrasas. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently asked the BJP workers to work for the uplift of the Pasmanda Muslims. PM Modi has urged the people to strengthen the Har Ghar Tiranga movement. Significantly, the party is believed to have identified around 50,000 Muslim-dominated booths where it plans to conduct awareness campaigns about public welfare schemes launched by the Centre. The party aims to cut across religious lines in carrying out its ambitious 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, which seeks to cover over 4 crore

homes and government offices in Uttar Pradesh. Importantly, on 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', PM Modi appealed to hoist 'Har Ghar Tiranga' from August 13 to 15 where the party aims to cover over 4 crore houses and government offices in Uttar Pradesh with its ambitious 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. On Tuesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off the Tiranga Yatra to mark the beginning of the celebration of 75th Independence Day. The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign was launched by PM Modi on July 22, 2022 to encourage people to bring the Tiranga home and hoist it to mark the 75th year of India's Independence.

Nitish Kumar hits reset, reunites with RJD

Nitish Kumar hit reset and reunited with the RJD in Bihar to stake claim to form a new government. He will take oath as CM for the eighth time on Wednesday. Here are the top points

(SAI Bureau Janata Dal (United) on Tuesday unanimously decided to snap ties with the BJP and Nitish Kumar resigned as the Chief Minister of Bihar in a stunning switch of power. The JD(U) chief will take oath as CM on Wednesday with Rashtriya Janata Dal's Tejashwi Yadav swearing-in as his deputy.

The political drama played out after Nitish Kumar's meeting with all JD(U) MPs and MLAs in Patna. All lawmakers unanimously voted to leave the NDA

alliance, leading to the downfall of the NDA government in the state. Here are the top points.

1) Nitish Kumar submitted his resignation to Governor Phagu Chauhan and submitted a list of 164 MLAs and claimed the support of seven parties to form a new government in Bihar.

"It was decided at the party meeting that we quit the NDA. I have, therefore, resigned as the NDA's Chief Minister," he said after resigning as the CM.

2) Nitish Kumar left the Governor's office

and headed straight to Rabri Devi's residence and held talks with Tejashwi Yadav. He was elected as the leader of Mahagathbandhan or the grand alliance, and met the Governor for a second time, with Tejashwi Yadav, to seek a new term as the chief minister of Bihar.

3) Swearing in of Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav as Chief Minister and Deputy CM respectively will take place at 2 pm on Wednesday. Kumar will be taking oath as the CM for the eighth time.

The RJD, which has the highest number of MLAs, will have 16 ministers and the JD(U) will have 13 ministers in the new cabinet. The Congress and HAM will have four and one minister each. A total of 35 MLAs will take oath as ministers eventually. 4) After staking claim to form a new government, Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav addressed the media, a first after Kumar joined hands with the Mahagathbandhan. He said a new government will be formed with the support of 164 MLAs and seven parties.

Bengal education scam accused Partha Chatterjee turns to religion in jail

Partha Chatterjee is reading books on Indian mystic Ramakrishna Paramahansa while spending time in jail, sources told India Today

(SAI Bureau) Former Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee, who was arrested for his involvement in an alleged teacher's recruitment scam has turned to religion during his time in jail, sources told India Today. Partha's lawyer Sukanya Bhattacharya sent him two books to Presidency jail from his residence on Tuesday. The books are 'Sri Sri

Ramakrishna Kathamrita' by Mahendranath Gupta and Mahasweta Devi's 'Amanibas'. 'Sri Sri Ramakrishna Kathamrita' is based on the activities of the 19th century Indian mystic Ramakrishna Paramahansa. Partha had earlier asked his lawyers to send him some books which he could read while locked inside jail. The

Enforcement Directorate (ED) too had earlier sent books to Partha. According to sources, Partha Chatterjee wishes to write down his memories and everyday experiences during his judicial custody days. Partha Chatterjee also expressed his concern about his family members on Tuesday, said sources. **NO SPECIAL PRIVILEGE**

Partha Chatterjee was sent to judicial custody after he completed the full term of ED custody. Sources told India Today that Partha Chatterjee is not getting any special privileges in jail. His lawyer also said, "He is living in jail just like a common man and we have full faith in the law and judiciary. We will fight legally and he will prove himself innocent one day."

Jaishankar to travel to Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay; inaugurate Indian mission in capital Asuncion

(SAI Bureau) With a renewed focus on South America, External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr S Jaishankar will travel to three key countries in the region—Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay later this month. In Paraguay, Jaishankar will inaugurate India's new embassy in the capital Asuncion likely on August 22. The Indian government in 2020 had given approval for the opening of three Indian missions, which also included Paraguay, by 2021.



This was followed by the minister's announcement of appointing Yogeshwar Sangwan as the first Indian Ambassador to the country. Earlier, India's Embassy in Argentina was concurrently accredited to Paraguay even though diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1961. The last major visit to the South American country from India was by the then Indian vice president M Venkaiah Naidu in 2019. The country has joined the International Solar Alliance and according to government estimates, around 600 Indians live in Paraguay, mainly in Ciudad del Este, a city in the south-east on the border with Brazil and Argentina. The visit to Argentina comes even as both Jaishankar and Argentinian Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero met two times this year. First in Delhi during the latter's bilateral visit and then in Bali on the sidelines of G20 foreign ministers' visit.

Important to remember that Argentina is keen to join the BRICS group and has discussed the matter with New

Delhi. Speaking to WION last month, Argentina's envoy to Delhi Hugo Javier Gobbi said that "India has been very

for UNSC reforms to reflect the contemporary world but have received opposition from China and its allies like Pakistan. And not just South America, the focus will also be on North America as well. On August 28, India's Lok Sabha (Lower House) speaker Om Birla will be travelling to Mexico with a large delegation. High level engagements have significantly increased between Mexico and India. Mexican foreign minister Marcelo Ebrard was in Delhi in March and was accompanied by a large business delegation.

receptive" of their request and added that the matter was discussed between the two foreign ministers in Bali and Delhi.

The visit also includes the joint commission meet in Brazil. Notably, Brazil like India is a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Both are also members of the IBSA, BRICS and G4 groupings. G4 countries have been pushing

Both Indian and Mexican foreign ministers held talks on the sidelines of G20 Foreign Ministers meet in Bali last month. Currently, Mexico is India's second largest trade partner in Latin America and is a non-permanent member of UNSC alongside India for the period 2021-22.

India's first underwater metro in Kolkata likely to be completed by June 2023

Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRC) on Monday said India's first underwater metro service is likely to be completed by June 2023

(SAI Bureau) The East-West corridor project, which will be India's first underwater metro service, is likely to be completed by June 2023, its executing agency Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRC) said on Monday. The metro line, which will connect Salt Lake to Howrah via Kolkata with a stretch below the Hooghly river, is currently operational between Sector V and Sealdah stations. "Target for commissioning of the balance section from Sealdah to Howrah Maidan is June 2023," the KMRC said in a statement. Of the total 16.55 km length of the project, 9.30 km length between Sector V and Sealdah is operational. The remaining 7.25 km length is likely to be operational within less than a year's time, it said. Completion of the

project will bring a huge relief to lakhs of commuters as it will connect the busy Howrah and Sealdah railway stations as well as the North-South Line of the Kolkata Metro at Esplanade. Of the total 16.55 km length, the underground section is 10.8 km long, while 5.8 km is elevated.

The project, which was earlier slated to be completed by December 2021, has faced delays owing to accidents at Bowbazar in central Kolkata during tunneling work. Several houses developed cracks during the underground work in May, nearly three years after a similar incident there. On August 31, 2019, a tunnel boring machine hit an aquifer, leading to severe ground subsidence and the collapse of several buildings in the area.

Mullaperiyar dam is safe, MK Stalin assures Kerala CM in letter

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin reassured Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan that the Mullaperiyar dam is safe



(News Agency) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin reassured his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan on the safety of Mullaperiyar dam and said flood regulation is being done as per norms. Replying to a letter by Kerala CM, Stalin stated that flood regulation of the dam is being done as per the Rule Curve and Gate Operation schedule approved by the Central Water Commission in February 2021. CM Stalin claimed that the rainfall in the catchment of Mullaperiyar was comparatively lesser but the field officers were instructed to divert water to the Vaigai basin to the

maximum extent possible. "I therefore once again reiterate that our dam management team is very focused on the precautionary measures to be taken on time for ensuring the safety of the people residing in the downstream of the Mullaperiyar Dam," stated CM Stalin. The spillway shutters of Mullaperiyar were opened on August 4 as the water level reached 136ft, incrementally increasing the spillway discharge based in variation in inflows to avoid sudden release, and on August 8, around 7pm with the after level at 138.85 ft with spillway discharge of 5000 cusecs.

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Fight over Sena symbol: Shinde camp submits documents to poll body in support of claim

The Eknath Shinde faction has submitted documents to the ECI in support of their claims to Shiv Sena's election symbol

(SAI Bureau) The Eknath Shinde faction has submitted documents to the Election Commission in support of their claims on the election symbol of Shiv Sena- a bow and arrow. The poll body had asked to submit documents, including letters of support from the legislative and organisational wings of the Sena, and the written statements of the rival factions. According to ECI, the requirements were made in line with Paragraph 15 of the

Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968. The camp led by former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is yet to submit their documents. The Uddhav faction is waiting for the Supreme Court proceedings on the issue to get over. The Eknath Shinde faction has submitted documents to the Election Commission in support of their claims on the election symbol of Shiv Sena- a bow and arrow. The poll body had asked to submit

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proceedings on the issue to support from the Maharashtra government led by Uddhav Thackeray. Shinde was sworn in as the Chief Minister on June 30 with the support of the BJP.

Individual licensees not reopening shops adds to Delhi's liquor crisis

The liquor crisis in Delhi continues to loom as nearly 50 per cent of the shops remain shut despite a two-month extension to the policy

(News Agency) Delhi's liquor crisis continues to loom with nearly 50 per cent of the shops still shut despite a two-month extension to the policy. The one-plus-one scheme is also hard to find at liquor stores across the national capital and several liquor brands are out of stock. The problem has been triggered after individual shop owners - almost 50 per cent of the total liquor stores in the Delhi, did not reopen their shops citing apprehensions. Only the big players, who have been granted zonal licences, are currently operating. "After the expiry of the new liquor policy, all individual license owners have surrendered their licenses and only the big players who had zonal licences are operating. It was not profitable for us to continue business during extension of the scheme. The new liquor policy turns out to be not good for individual liquor vend owners," said Inderpreet Singh, a liquor vend



owner at Star City Mall in Delhi's Mayur Vihar area. People are being forced to buy liquor from neighbouring cities - Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Gurugram. There are queues at liquor vends since many are shut. Costlier Indian made foreign liquor (IMFL) is hard to find. The old rates are still there but there is a scarcity of good liquor. Entry-level whiskeys are also available but the costlier brands are missing or are hard to find," said a south Delhi resident. According to the report submitted to the Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, the old excise

policy was changed without the L-G's approval, allowing an alleged waiver of Rs 144.36 crore on licenses on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The report alleges undue benefits to the licensees by revising the rates of IMFL and removing the import pass fee of Rs 50 per case on beer. It also claims that these decisions and irregularities have led to huge losses to the exchequer. The Delhi government had brought in a new liquor policy with the aim of generating Rs 4,500 crore in additional revenue every year. According to sources, the Delhi government raised Rs 1,484 crore in the first quarter of 2022-23. The Delhi government cited Covid-19 lockdowns as the reason behind the drop in revenue despite the report registering a hike of 87 per cent in sales of wine, 59.5 per cent in whiskey and 5.5 per cent in sales of beer as compared to last year's first quarter.

NIA files chargesheet after explosives recovered from Bengal's North 24 Parganas

The anti-terror probe agency has filed a chargesheet after explosives, bombs and arms were recovered from West Bengal's North 24 Parganas

(News Agency) The National Investigative Agency (NIA) on Monday filed a charge sheet against an accused in connection with the recovery of explosives, bombs, firearms, and ammunition from a property in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas. The chargesheet was filed before a special court under Jagaddal police station area under Barrackpore Police Commissionerate. The accused, identified as Namit Singh, has been booked under Sections 4 and 5 of



the Explosive Substances Act, and section 25 (1B) of the Arms Act. A case was initially registered on March 12, 2022 and re-registered by the anti-terror probe agency on April 8. Investigations have revealed that Namit Singh was stockpiling explosive substances, firearms and ammunition with the intention to endanger human life in contravention of provisions of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 and the Arms act, 1959.

7 bills passed in Lok Sabha during monsoon session, says Speaker Om Birla

(News Agency) Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday said a total of seven bills were passed in the lower house during the monsoon session. He added that a total of 16 sittings were held which lasted for about 44 hours and 29 minutes.

The seven bills are the Indian Antarctic Bill, the Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, the National Anti-Doping Bill, the Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill, the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill and the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (Amendment) Bill.

As many as 39 members took part in the discussion for the Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill that went on for more than five hours.

The Speaker said that oral answers were given to 46 starred questions during the question hours held in the session. The members raised 318 matters of public interest before the house under rule 377. During the Zero Hour, members raised 98 matters on various important issues.

Referring to the reports of Parliamentary Committees, Birla said that a total of 41 reports were presented by various Parliamentary Standing Committees during the session.

Members of both the houses of Parliament extended farewell to the outgoing President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, in the Central Hall of Parliament House on July 23. Birla thanked the Prime Minister, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, leaders and members of various parties for their contribution to the smooth functioning of the session.

Eagle's wings rattling dragon: USA condemns Chinese approach in Taiwan

By Susmita Ghosh

The recent visit of US house speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan seems to add fuel to the somewhat fiery relationship of China and US. In its hasty and if not a desperate reaction to boost its image before the domestic as well as the international community, China, on last thrush day launched a four-day war game and held precision missile strikes on the Taiwan strait. Since 1949, the People's Republic of China (PRC) led by the communist party has seen Taiwan as a thorn in its global presence. Despite having never

The US and its QUAD partners like Japan and Australia, on the other hand, recognize the strategic importance of an independent Taiwan in Indo-Pacific region. Even their fourth partner India seems to have shaken off its hesitance. Since 2020, they have been taking steps to boost diplomatic ties with Taiwan

controlled it, has been very clear to declare its intention to extend its control to the island as well. Beijing has pursued economic coercion, political interference, and cyber-attacks against Taiwan, all of which erode the Cross-Strait status quo. As just one example, over the past two years, China has more than doubled the number of aircraft that they have flown over the centre line that separates China and Taiwan as compared to the time period between 2016 and 2020. The US and its QUAD partners like Japan and Australia, on the other hand, recognize the strategic importance of an independent Taiwan in Indo-Pacific region. Even their fourth partner, India seems to have shaken off its hesitance. Since 2020, they have been taking steps to boost diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

John Kirby, the National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications, told media recently that the US condemn these Chinese actions, which are irresponsible and at odds with the longstanding goal of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and in the region. He also added that China has chosen to overreact and use the visit of

Pelosi as a pretext to increase provocative military activity in and around the Taiwan Strait".

The United States had anticipated that China might take this kind of drastic steps. According to Kirby, the USA expect that these actions will continue and the Chinese will linger on to react in the coming days. The United States is prepared for what Beijing chooses to do, even though they do not seek a crisis.

Simultaneously, the United States has clarified that it will not be deterred from operating in the seas and the skies of the Western Pacific, consistent

with international law, as the US has been supporting Taiwan and defending a free and open Indo-Pacific for decades. To that end, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on Thursday directed that the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and the ships in her strike group will remain on station in the general area to monitor the situation.

The US is also expected to conduct standard air and maritime transits through the Taiwan Strait in the next few weeks. Consistent again, with its longstanding approach to defend freedom of the seas and international law. Beijing's provocative actions, Kirby noted, are a significant escalation in its longstanding attempt to change the status quo.

The rising tension in the region and Biden administration's renewed promise of helping Taiwan if attacked by China. The experts believe that chances of a full grown military conflict like Russia and Ukraine in near future are much less as stakes of international community are higher. Even though China will continue to be aggressive in its approach in Taiwan, it will be far more controlled, as now the USA have stepped in with a more proactive approach to maintain stability in the region.

The holistic transformation leadership

Is holistic transformation leadership another jawbreaker of mumbo-jumbo? No, in the context of this article. It is akin to holistic life. With the deep impact of technology on productivity and ways of working, executives rely on rationality in change management, maybe to a fault. As machine learning and artificial intelligence emerge, this trend of left-braininess could gather pace. It is great for operational managers for whom efficiency and delivery of results are key. MBA students, in fact, are educated on transactional change, and during the first half of their careers, are rewarded for their rationality.

Then their career meets a crossroad. One straight path continues to demand dominantly rational management, while the other appears like a steep, winding gradient. This second path demands empathetic leadership in addition to rational decision-making.

The difference between transactional management and transformational leadership is about how change is managed. In transactional, the manager is reacting with a near-term horizon, persuading people to follow action plans. Transformational leadership, on the other hand, requires adaptive responses, concerning individuals and social systems. In this mode, followers feel empowered and engaged, they feel a sense of self-identity, and take ownership for their results. This is the big difference.

The two approaches overlap. They deploy rationality and empathy in different proportions: transactional management requires dominantly rational skills, while transformational leadership requires dominantly empathy skills. Both skill sets are relevant.

A holistic leadership approach is akin

to a systems-approach—the impact of one decision on every other part of the moving system is contemplated in advance. Rather than describe the differences, I illustrate through the exceptional and noteworthy example of rationalisation in TISCO in the early 1990s when Dr Jamshed Irani led Tata Steel. In this short article, I do not intend to analyse or comment on every aspect of the rather massive transformation, but to merely narrate what a 'holistic' approach looks like.

TISCO has had a long history of harmonious and trusting industrial relations. In the late 1980s, Dr Irani recalled a conversation with Mr J R D Tata outside the Jamshedpur steelworks. J R D bemoaned the fact that chief engineer, Mr Firoze Tarapore, had "submitted as many modernisations for the company as the years in his life". But where was TISCO to get the funds? Irani doggedly responded that unless TISCO was modernised urgently, leaders would soon be standing at the factory gate, selling tickets to visit a steel museum. It was a grim, but forthright assessment of the future.

Then the environment changed. Liberalisation was announced by the government. It was an "aha" moment for Dr Jamshed Irani and his leadership team. Very quickly, TISCO's efficiency was benchmarked by comparing it with top global companies. A system of Total Business Excellence was adopted to rapidly improve wherever TISCO was lagging. The old plans were updated with contemporary ideas of technology and productivity, thus producing a fresh modernisation plan. Huge funds were required, so funding ideas too were developed. In a sense, these were all in the realm of the rational—technology, funding, productivity, sustainability, and soon.

The difference between transactional management and transformational leadership is about how change is managed

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Face tech behind Delhi riots arrests: 'Accused told to match pose'

Unlike the usual FRS procedure, where visuals are matched with dossiers, official IDs or still images of faces, the police have "tried to achieve maximum accuracy" this time by clicking photos of the accused in the same pose and angle as they were captured in CCTV footage, sources said

In A first, the Delhi Police used the Facial Recognition System (FRS) to arrest and "confirm" the presence of several accused at the site of the Jahangirpuri riots that took place four months ago — and the images will be presented as evidence in court. Of the 37 chargesheeted, over 25 accused have been produced so far at the Forensic Science Lab (FSL) in Rohini to match CCTV visuals using FRS. The Indian Express has learnt.

However, unlike the usual FRS procedure, where visuals are matched with dossiers, official IDs or still images of faces, the police have "tried to achieve maximum accuracy" this time by clicking photos of the accused in the same pose and angle as they were captured in CCTV footage, sources said.

During the Northeast Delhi riots in 2020, the police had used FRS to make arrests but were later pulled up by the Central Information Commission for not furnishing details about the technology's accuracy and how it was used. Police sources said not many details were shared at the time since the system was "only used" to make "a few arrests" and not as "evidence" in the courts. This time, sources said, the Crime Branch used FRS with permission from the local court. The Jahangirpuri clashes broke out on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti in April, leading to injuries to 8-9 persons



including police personnel. While initial arrests in the case were made by the police in Northwest district, the Crime Branch used FRS to make further arrests. DCP Vichitra Veer (Crime Branch) said, "With the permission of the court, the accused persons were photographed through FSL to match against the available video footage."

Explaining the procedure, a senior police officer said, "The footage recovered from the lanes of Jahangirpuri were of good quality and helped us in identifying people. To confirm their presence, we took permission from the court and took the accused to the FSL in Rohini. Their

footage was pulled up and they were asked to pose in the same manner as they were found in the footage. This helped us in making successful arrests."

Sources said that since the procedure requires technical and manual analysis, it takes time to produce results. Also, the officers have to get a "clear still" from CCTVs for the system to work, they said. Senior officers told The Indian Express that the entire exercise was conducted in 7-8 days, with groups taken from the Tihar jail to the FSL every day.

"CCTV footage might have limited evidence value in the courts. The accused can always deny their presence in the

visuals. To prevent this situation, we needed photos in the same angle and the same pose. This also helped us in identifying those who were carrying weapons and instigating crowds," said an officer.

Analysis of CCTV footage and mobile videos also revealed the activities of individuals in the crowd, officers said. "Persons carrying rods, bricks and stones were seen, and their images were taken from CCTV. This was further processed in identifying rioters," the officer said. "We saw 4-5 accused wave their hands to call other people or make gestures to invite crowds for rioting. Some are seen picking up bags filled with glass bottles and giving them to others. These visuals have also been recovered and saved," said the officer.

Police investigations have also revealed that "2-3 persons from the VHP rally on Hanuman Jayanti", which triggered the riots, carried weapons. Among the 37 chargesheeted, the police claim that three accused, identified as Mohammed Ansar (35) and his associates Tabrez Khan (36) and Ishrafil, are allegedly the "key conspirators". "They have been spotted in CCTV footage. Ansar and Tabrez have been arrested while Ishrafil is still on the run. Police recovered bricks and glass bottles from Ishrafil's residence," the officer said.

What is ring vaccination that India may embrace to prevent monkeypox spread?

So far, India has reported nine cases of monkeypox and one death. The government has stepped up vigil and issued revised guidelines. To contain the spread and treat the infected, India may opt for ring vaccination strategy that involves inoculating close contacts of monkeypox patients

In its strategy to combat the slowly but steadily spreading monkeypox infection, the government may adopt selective vaccination of close contacts of those infected and healthcare workers in what is known as 'ring vaccination'.

On July 23, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern considering the global outbreaks in all the six regions in multiple countries.

Monkeypox in India

So far, India has reported nine cases of monkeypox and one death. The government has stepped up vigil and issued revised guidelines. The government believes that at present, vaccinating the general population is not required.

According to a report by the Business Standard, the recently-formed Central Task Force on monkeypox has

stressed the importance of developing diagnostic kits and vaccines for the contagious disease, which has thus far been primarily detected among gay and bisexual men, despite it not being classified as a sexually transmitted disease.

Experts have also suggested that point-of-care tests, screening, and a widespread testing network in the hinterlands can help arrest the spread of monkeypox.

The Indian Council Medical Research's (ICMR) National

Institute of Virology in Pune isolated the monkeypox strain and invited pharma companies to explore options for development of vaccines and diagnostic kits.

What is ring vaccination?

Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health believes vaccinating a "ring" of people around an individual infected with monkeypox could be effective in curbing the spread of the disease.

According to a report by Mint, even though ring vaccination has not been recommended in a generalised way in any of the countries, India may opt for it if the need arises.

The disease, which spreads



primarily through close contact between people exhibiting symptoms, is a relative of smallpox but is less contagious with milder illness. Symptoms include a rash that can look like pimples or blisters as well as fever and chills.

Dr Robert H Shmerling (MD) - a current member of medicine at Harvard Medical School and Senior Faculty Editor, Harvard Health Publishing,

writes in Harvard Health - "In light of the current monkeypox outbreak, you may soon be hearing more about ring vaccination. Then again, if appropriate measures are taken to prevent its spread, this outbreak may soon be over. Either way, this won't be the last time an unusual virus shows up seemingly out of the blue in unexpected places. Climate change, shrinking animal habitats, rising global animal trade, and increasing international travel mean that it's only a matter of time before this happens again."

Ring vaccination has worked well in the past to contain smallpox and Ebola outbreaks. It may be effective for monkeypox as well.

Phyllis Kanki, Mary Woodard Lasker Professor of Health Sciences at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, noted in an article in Leaps.org that an existing vaccine called Jynneos can be effective in preventing the spread of monkeypox via ring vaccination.

"Since monkeypox spreads by close contact and we have an effective vaccine, vaccinating high-risk individuals and their contacts may be a good strategy to limit transmission," she said.

How to talk to India's unique digital polity of first-time, non-English internet-using voters

It will require creative approaches for political engagement ahead of 2024 elections

The recently released IAMAI Kantar, Internet in India, ICUBE 2021 study has some interesting findings on how the country is fast emerging as one of the world's largest markets for internet-based apps and services. The report was released around the same time India witnessed significant bidding for the 5G spectrum. At the intersection of both of these lies perhaps the world's most unique digital polity of first-time, non-English internet users who think, act and transact "mobile first". Their numbers will soon reach a billion as India focuses efforts on expanding rural 4G access and high-speed internet. With anywhere between two to eight hours of daily usage, the Indian internet user is the ideal test case for any platform or app-based service looking to tap a global audience. Little wonder that we have witnessed over the years intense efforts to sway the Indian internet user through borderless activism in the name of "saving the internet", "online free speech", and "data surveillance".

With the Narendra Modi-led NDA government withdrawing the earlier proposed Personal Data Protection Bill, the stakes have become even higher for borderless activism seeking to influence how India regulates the internet-based economy.

The reasons for the high stakes in internet regulation in India become apparent when one looks at the demographic shift in the country — the statistics revealed by the IAMAI report also underline this shift. As per the UN's estimates for births in India, the cohort born between 2002 and 2006 is one of the largest, with yearly births having peaked in the country between 2001 and 2002. This makes the cohort of nearly 150 million first-time voters in the 2024 General Elections a sizable and distinct digital constituency. As India's largest cohort that has been "Digital First" from the cradle, this generation of first-time voters has experienced all the significant digital shifts in their formative years. Having been born around the same time as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, this generation came of age with the touchscreen revolution. Their teen years witnessed an explosive growth in smartphone usage. This is also the generation that had the highest exposure to online education due to Covid-19 vastly increasing their screen time and use of internet tools and services.

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revealed by the IAMAI report also underline this shift. As per the UN's estimates for births in India, the cohort born between 2002 and 2006 is one of the largest, with yearly births having peaked in the country between 2001 and 2002. This makes the cohort of nearly 150 million first-time voters in the 2024 General Elections a sizable and distinct digital constituency. As India's largest cohort that has been "Digital First" from the cradle, this generation of first-time voters has experienced all the significant digital shifts in their formative years. Having been born around the same time as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, this generation came of age with the touchscreen revolution. Their teen years witnessed an explosive growth in smartphone usage. This is also the generation that had the highest exposure to online education due to Covid-19 vastly increasing their screen time and use of internet tools and services.

The unique digital characteristics of this demographic of first-time voters will require creative approaches for political engagement ahead of the 2024 elections. The Election Commission of India recently announced further liberalisation of the voter registration process with 17-year-olds being able to

register a year ahead of being eligible to vote, apart from opening up the voter registration process once every quarter. Creative engagement of this digital-first generation would perhaps require interactive live streaming on platforms like Twitch apart from volunteer engagement efforts through "servers" on Discord. How India approaches digital regulations would be of utmost importance to this cohort. It will necessitate a sustained dialogue on the government's approach to techno-nationalism as a counter to the borderless activism that has sought to skew digital policy debates in India.

India is not alone in its pursuit of techno-nationalism. We are already witnessing a wave of regulatory moves from Indonesia on not just controlling online gaming apps and services but also actively promoting indigenously developed gaming apps. While China requires licences for online games by a dedicated gaming regulator, Indonesia requires formal registration to be compliant with local laws governing what are called "private electronic systems". From Kenya to Brazil we are also witnessing preemptive actions to insulate the electoral processes of their respective democracies from the

spread of viral fake news and disinformation on WhatsApp. India is not alone in its pursuit of techno-nationalism. We are already witnessing a wave of regulatory moves from Indonesia on not just controlling online gaming apps and services but also actively promoting indigenously developed gaming apps. While China requires licences for online games by a dedicated gaming regulator, Indonesia requires formal registration to be compliant with local laws governing what are called "private electronic systems". From Kenya to Brazil we are also witnessing preemptive actions to insulate the electoral processes of their respective democracies from the spread of viral fake news and disinformation on WhatsApp.

From securing semiconductor supply chains to regulating data flows, techno-nationalism is on the political agenda of western democracies and eastern nations alike. Over the next two years as the government seeks to put in place a comprehensive digital regulatory framework governing data, privacy, apps and algorithms, engaging the first digital generation of new voters on techno-nationalism will be crucial at every step.

State-level OBC groups must be included in central list

The SCs and STs are identified as such 'with respect to any State or Union Territory' and have only one list and one status at the state and central levels. So, why are the OBCs being identified differently?

The Other Backward Classes or OBCs largely come from farming and other "middle level" communities in India. The Justice Rohini Commission, ostensibly set up to ensure equitable distribution of reservation benefits among the OBC castes through sub-categorisation, was given yet another extension (10th in five years) last month. However, the political aim behind this endeavour is likely the desire of the current ruling dispensation to divide the OBC block, which constitutes over 50 per cent of the country's population.

The issue of sub-categorisation arises from the perception that a few dominant castes among the OBCs have cornered a disproportionate amount of the benefits emanating

from the reservation. The truth of the matter cannot be ascertained until a caste census is conducted.

A far more pressing matter than the sub-categorisation of OBCs is a glaring, prevalent injustice. Currently, for each state, there are two OBC lists — from the state and the Centre. So, a caste may be included in the OBC list of a state and enjoy the reservation benefits in state government jobs and educational institutions but not with respect to central government jobs or educational institutions. Across all the states, there are hundreds of such OBC castes whose members are being denied reservation benefits in central government jobs. How did this happen? And what is the

remedy? Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution make special provisions for socially and educationally backward classes of citizens (SEBCs, popularly known as OBCs), the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). So, provisions available to SCs and STs should have been extended to OBCs. In 1955, the first Backward Classes Commission identified and listed 2,399 castes as OBCs and recommended various welfare measures for the same. But, the then central government took the strange decision not to implement the recommendations of the Commission. It said, instead, that no all-India lists of backward classes should be drawn up nor any reservation be made for any group of backward

classes in central government jobs. The issue of sub-categorisation arises from the perception that a few dominant castes among the OBCs have cornered a disproportionate amount of the benefits emanating from the reservation. (Representational) The Other Backward Classes or OBCs largely come from farming and other "middle level" communities in India. The Justice Rohini Commission, ostensibly set up to ensure equitable distribution of reservation benefits among the OBC castes through sub-categorisation, was given yet another extension (10th in five years) last month. However, the political aim behind this endeavour is likely the desire of the current ruling dispensation to

divide the OBC block, which constitutes over 50 per cent of the country's population. The issue of sub-categorisation arises from the perception that a few dominant castes among the OBCs have cornered a disproportionate amount of the benefits emanating from the reservation. The truth of the matter cannot be ascertained until a caste census is conducted. Don't Miss from Express Opinion |Pratap Bhanu Mehta writes: The Nine Lives of Nitish Kumar A far more pressing matter than the sub-categorisation of OBCs is a glaring, prevalent injustice. Currently, for each state, there are two OBC lists — from the state and the Centre.

(Contd. on page 30)

Decoding Pelosi's Indo-Pacific Visit: Important for Both China And US to Try to Defuse Tensions

Accompanied by an official Congressional delegation, Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, made a fiery trip to the Indo-Pacific region, stretching across Northeast (Japan, South Korea) and Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Singapore). The showstopper of her power-packed visit though was Taiwan.

Initial flip-flops regarding the visit were driven by apprehensions regarding China's possible reaction, but undeterred by such repeated warnings, Pelosi went ahead with the trip on August 2-3.

A longtime critic of human rights violations in China and a supporter of Taiwan, Pelosi is seen as one of the key faces of America's democratic values, at home and abroad. Naturally, her visit and interaction with the officials did not go down too well with the Chinese leadership, which started a live fire drill to show that Beijing can blockade the island nation.

Joe Biden had a telephonic conversation with Chinese President Xi Jinping on July 28. While both sides extensively discussed Taiwan, they differed in their perception of the issue as well as the outcome they thought



they had achieved. While China wants the US to not up the ante on Taiwan and consistently accuses America of violating the One-China policy, Washington believes Beijing is failing to respect Taiwan's existence as a democracy and maintain the peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. Despite China's warnings and even Biden not being on board, Pelosi still went ahead with her Taiwan visit and was received with much fanfare. China

must understand that the US foreign policy and the role of public institutions and public opinion in shaping it are not the exclusive domains of the US government. Trapped in its own rhetoric, China had no option but to pledge retaliatory measures. China announced that it will conduct live fire military drills, joint air and sea exercises in the sea and air spaces of the northern, southwestern, and southeastern Taiwan islands, and

blockade Taiwan. Keeping its word, China has sent more than 70 PLA aircraft and more than a dozen vessels to the Taiwan Strait with some even crossing the median line. In addition to sanctioning Pelosi, China has even refused to hold all institutional dialogues with the US, which also include critical issues such as defence policy coordination talks, phone calls between theatre command incharges, Maritime Military Consultation Agreement, and climate change dialogues. During the recent ASEAN ministerial meeting, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi didn't meet US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Apparently, China-US relations are staring at a turbulent phase marked by strategic mistrust and anxiety. Pelosi's Taiwan visit completely outshined her visit to other Indo-Pacific countries. But then, what happened in Taiwan arguably also enhanced USA's image among host countries, and reassured its allies and partners of its commitment to the Indo-Pacific especially to get more support for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), announced on the sidelines of the Quad leaders' Summit in Tokyo.

(Contd. on page 30)

Death penalty for rape: Both Ashok Gehlot and his critics miss the point

Political discourse on complex issue of sexual violence against women and children is unnuanced, prioritises rhetoric over evidence-based engagement

At a press conference last week in Delhi, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot criticised the legislative expansion of the death penalty for sexual offences, holding the Centre responsible for encouraging sexual offenders to kill the victims after raping them in an attempt to destroy evidence and avoid prosecution. Gehlot made an overarching claim about this "dangerous" trend playing out nationally. Empirical evidence, however, doesn't support his contention. Inevitably, he has invited sharp criticism from political opponents, many of whom have called out the Rajasthan CM for his failure to address sexual violence in the state. The chairperson of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW), Swati Maliwal, has strongly reiterated her support for the death penalty for rape. Unfortunately, both Gehlot's comment and the backlash to it expose the dodgy state of political discourse on sexual violence against women and children.

The gang rape and murder on December 16, 2012 led to a public clamour for imposing the death penalty on rapists. In response, the government constituted a three-member committee headed by Justice J S Verma. The Committee invited suggestions from women's groups across the country on various issues relating to sexual violence



against women, including the question of punishment. Women's groups overwhelmingly opposed the death penalty for rape. In fact, many of them shared the concern that introducing the death penalty for rape may lead perpetrators to kill their victims in an attempt to destroy evidence. Consequently, the Verma Committee did not recommend legislating the death penalty for sexual offences. Despite the Committee's clear position against the death penalty, based on well-founded arguments, it was first introduced for non-homicidal sexual offences (repeat sexual offending and rape leading to permanent vegetative state) through the Criminal Law Amendment Act (CLA) 2013. Ever since, India has seen a consistent legislative expansion of harsher sentences for sexual violence, including the introduction of the death penalty as a possible punishment for non-homicidal child rape.

Contrary to the feminist analyses which see sexual violence as an outcome of deep-rooted structural inequalities, the punitive legislative approach locates such violence in an ahistorical framework. Curbing something as pervasive as sexual violence goes well beyond the realm of criminal law. It is, therefore, not surprising that many recommendations of the JS Verma Committee on preventing sexual violence had little to do with legal changes.

Gehlot's is not a stray comment. A lot of the political conversation and law-making on sexual violence is rooted in speculative and fallacious beliefs. A recent example is the introduction of the death penalty for child rapists despite the overwhelming evidence from CCL-NLSIU studies that it will deter children and their families from reporting sexual abuse by family members and relatives. The

parliamentary discussions in the lead-up to the amendment also reveal the complete lack of understanding that nearly 95 per cent of the perpetrators are persons well known to the victims. Notably, a study of rape trials adjudicated before and after the legislation of CLA 2013 in Delhi revealed that the introduction of harsher sentences through CLA 2013 had led to a reduced rate of conviction in rape cases. Gehlot's is not a stray comment. A lot of the political conversation and law-making on sexual violence is rooted in speculative and fallacious beliefs. A recent example is the introduction of the death penalty for child rapists despite the overwhelming evidence from CCL-NLSIU studies that it will deter children and their families from reporting sexual abuse by family members and relatives. The parliamentary discussions in the lead-up to the amendment also reveal the complete lack of understanding that nearly 95 per cent of the perpetrators are persons well known to the victims. Notably, a study of rape trials adjudicated before and after the legislation of CLA 2013 in Delhi revealed that the introduction of harsher sentences through CLA 2013 had led to a reduced rate of conviction in rape cases.

(Contd. on page 30)

The Pope's Penitence

He apologised in Canada. He should also acknowledge Church's excesses in India

Pope Francis's six-day-long apology tour of Canada ended on July 29 in Iqaluit, the capital of the Nunavut territory, with an address to a crowd of mainly indigenous people, where he admitted that their stories "renewed in me the indignation and shame that I have felt for months."

Terming his journey as a "penitential pilgrimage", the 85-year-old Pontiff repeatedly sought "forgiveness for the Church's role in the residential school system". The Canadian government, however, said that his apology didn't go far enough. The government's criticism echoes that of survivors and concerns the Pope's omission of any reference to the sexual abuse suffered by children as well as his refusal to name the Catholic Church as an institution bearing any responsibility. Murray Sinclair, the former Chairperson of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) commented, "It is important to underscore that the Church was not just an agent of the state, nor simply a participant in Government policy, but was a lead co-author of the darkest chapters in the history of this land."

It's obvious that Canada finds the Vatican's "apology" half-hearted, aimed at mere optics. But why such scepticism about the Pope's intentions? Because as recently as 2018, he refused to apologise for residential school abuses, even after the TRC in 2015 documented the abuse and torture inflicted by the Church on the indigenous population. Canada is just one of the scores of countries where the Catholic Church is accused of decimating local culture and subjecting generations to atrocities in a bid to "civilise" and convert them to Christianity. If the Vatican is genuinely remorseful about its record, why stop at Canada? Why not seek forgiveness from all those societies that were affected during its evangelical drive lasting several centuries? Nearer home, the Church's record on persecution of people in Goa is as bad, if not worse, than in Canada. The exploitation of Hindus, Muslims, and local Christians at the hands of the Catholic Church started with the Portuguese takeover of Goa in 1510. Through the notorious Inquisition, the Church, in cahoots with the Portuguese state, resorted to a host of repressive measures

to stamp out the local culture. It didn't spare even local Christians who didn't owe allegiance to the Vatican. According to B R Ambedkar, "The inquisitors of Goa discovered that they were heretics, and like a wolf on the fold, down came the delegates of the Pope upon the Syrian Churches."

The persecution of the Canadian indigenous population started with the enactment of The Indian Act in 1876. Children were taken away from their families and sent to residential schools, which were functional till the 1990s. In a recent statement, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau said, "Canada's history will forever be stained by the tragic reality of the residential school system, which forcibly separated at least 1,50,000 indigenous children from their families and communities..." It has been reported that in these schools, children were beaten, forced to practise Christianity, and not allowed to speak their native languages. From the 1990s onward, the Canadian government and the churches involved began to acknowledge their responsibility for an educational scheme designed to "kill the Indian in the child". A

report by the TRC states that over 6,000 children were estimated to have died because of the abuse in residential schools.

The justification for such atrocities partly comes from the so-called Doctrine of Discovery, the 19th-century international legal concept that legitimises European colonial seizure of land and resources from native people. The havoc which the Catholic Church wreaked in Canada, India and other parts of the world, was not the result of a random act by an over-enthusiastic, misguided local satrap. It was a part of a policy entailed in Pope Nicholas V's Papal Bull of 1452, which calls upon believers to, "...invade, search out, capture, vanquish, and subdue all Saracens and pagans whatsoever, and other enemies of Christ wheresoever placed..." The forced obliteration of local identity in Goa, spanning four centuries, had institutional and doctrinal support provided by the Church. India and Canada are victims of the same crime. The belated apology by the Pope in Canada is a welcome step. Why doesn't he apologise in India as well?

BJP Needs Radical Solutions if it Doesn't Want a Washout in Bengal

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on August 5. The ostensible agenda was to discuss various issues pertaining to the state and, in particular, finances expected from the Centre. Though the meeting was probably scheduled earlier, it acquired significance in the backdrop of the Enforcement Directorate's raids on her close associate and former minister — Partha Chatterjee.

Since she took charge as Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee's visits to Delhi have been choreographed for the media with her public relations team working overtime. In contrast, her current trip was relatively low key. This itself fuelled speculation.

A recent addition to the Bengali political lexicon is the word 'setting'. The meaning is not far from other contexts in which it is used, namely — an understanding behind the scenes to ensure a predetermined outcome based on secret quid-pro-quo. Detective fiction has always been a popular genre in Bengal. And Bengalis love conspiracy theories. Kolkata is now abuzz with rumours of a new "setting" in the works. Ever since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) became a serious player in the state, that is in circa 2014, Bengalis have been mystified by

the "blow hot and blow cold" attitude of its top leadership towards Bengal. People were intrigued at how the Central investigative agencies turned the heat on 'chit-fund' cases but cooled off once impugned TMC leaders jumped to the BJP ship in the run up to the 2021 Assembly elections. But what flummoxed observers even more was the anti-climax that followed. There was a veritable meltdown in the party and the state leadership slipped into a virtual state of coma. Those who had supported the BJP in the elections were disillusioned not as much by the "ghar-wapsi" of prodigal TMC members but by the BJP central leadership abandoning the foot soldiers to fend for themselves in the post-poll blood-bath.

A sense of déjà vu was palpable amongst those who were hoping for a change. The experience was like those of the Left Front Rule when the CPI(M)-led coalition kept returning to power with a thumping majority in every election. Now they were not prepared to wait for another thirty years. But with Congress decimated in the state and the Left reduced to a rump, they could not figure out who can usher in another watershed after the BJP's drubbing at the hustings. Bengalis are known to be vociferous but expect others

to do the heavy lifting. So, despite disappointments there was an unspoken expectation on Narendra Modi and Amit Shah to redeem their promise doing whatever it takes. Thus when central agencies stepped up the ante yet again in the last one year to pursue old cases, the public impression was the BJP was trying to keep the heat on to check Mamata Banerjee's national ambitions. But past experience made them sceptical. They also wondered if it was more bark than bite.

Emboldened by the TMC's clean sweep in West Bengal and sensing a vacuum in the Opposition space, she embarked on a campaign to enhance her national profile commissioning the services of election strategist Prashant Kishor. On his advice, she made an audacious move by deciding to test the national waters by contesting the Assembly elections in Goa. The TMC invested money and manpower that many thought were disproportionate to the stake on

the table to ultimately come a cropper winning only 2 out of 40 seats. However, it did manage to garner 5.7 percent (12.8 percent with its allies). This gave rise to the retro-theory that the TMC had gone to Goa as a proxy for BJP to undercut votes of the Congress. Since then "setting" has become a part of popular parlance whenever the relation between the TMC and the BJP is discussed. Goa was a setback for the Trinamool Congress. This, however, did not curb Banerjee's pugnacity.

Contingency plan: Elon Musk sells Tesla shares worth \$6.9 billion amid legal dispute with Twitter

Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk has sold Tesla's shares worth \$6.9 billion while citing his ongoing legal battle with social media giant Twitter.

Saying the funds could be used to finance a potential Twitter deal if he loses a legal battle with the social media platform, Musk defended his decision of selling shares in front of the company's shareholders. "In the (hopefully unlikely) event that Twitter forces this deal to close and some equity partners don't come through, it is important to avoid an emergency sale of Tesla stock," he tweeted.

Twitter had sued Musk after the billionaire-backed out from his cash offer to acquire the company for \$44 billion. Musk had accused the San Francisco-based company of misleading his team about the true size of its user base and other problems which he said amounted to fraud and breach of contract. Dismissing his claim

as buyer's remorse in the wake of a plunge in technology stocks, Twitter has sued Musk to force him to complete the transaction. In April, Musk said he had no further sales planned after he sold \$8.5 billion worth of Tesla shares.

According to court filings, Musk sold about 7.92 million shares between August 5 and August 9 and he now owns 155.04 million Tesla shares or just under 15 per cent of the automaker.

Since the automaker reported better-than-expected earnings on July 20, its shares have risen nearly 15 per cent. If the Biden administration passes the climate bill, which will lift the cap on tax credits for electric vehicles, it will further boost Tesla shares. Musk has also hinted at the possibility of starting his own social media platform like former US President Donald Trump did after he was blocked from accessing Twitter.

Zoonotic Langya found in China: What is this new virus infecting people?

A new virus that has possibly jumped from animals to humans has infected 35 people in China. Some of the patients have developed symptoms including fever, fatigue, cough, loss of appetite, muscle pain, nausea, headache and vomiting

Another zoonotic virus has started to cause concerns in China as 35 people have been infected so far. The Langya henipavirus has been found in China's Shandong and Henan provinces and can be transmitted from animals to humans. Taiwan's Centers for Disease Control (CDC) noted that Taipei would establish a nucleic acid testing method to identify the virus and monitor its spread.

What is the langya virus?

A study titled "A Zoonotic Henipavirus in Febrile Patients in China" that was published in the New England Journal of Medicine on Thursday said that a new henipavirus associated with a fever-causing human illness was identified in China.

Shanghai-based media thepaper.cn reported that Henipavirus is one of the important emerging causes of zoonosis in the Asia-Pacific region, noting that both Hendra virus (HeV) and Nipah virus (NiV) from this genus are known to infect humans with fruit bats as the natural host of both viruses.

The test results of 25 wild animal species suggest that the shrew (a small insectivorous mammal resembling a mouse) might be a natural reservoir of the Langya



henipavirus, as the virus was found in 27 percent of the shrew subjects, the CDC Deputy DG said.

Providing details of the serological survey conducted on domestic animals, he said that 2 percent of the tested goats and 5 percent of the tested dogs were positive.

Taiwan's CDC Deputy Director-General Chuang Jen-hsiang on Sunday said that according to a study, human-to-human transmission of the virus has not been reported however at the same time he said that CDC has yet to determine whether the virus can be transmitted among humans and cautioned people to pay close attention to further updates about the

virus.

What are the symptoms of langya virus?

The investigation identified 35 patients with acute infection of the Langya henipavirus in China's Shandong and Henan provinces, and that 26 of them were infected with the Langya virus only, with no other pathogens.

Chuang said the 35 patients in China did not have close contact with each other or a common exposure history, and contact tracing showed no viral transmission among close contacts and family, suggesting that human infections might be sporadic. The 26 patients developed symptoms including fever, fatigue, a cough, loss

of appetite, muscle pain, nausea, headache and vomiting. They also showed a decrease in white blood cells, low platelet count, liver failure and kidney failure. According to Global Times, scholars who participated in the study pointed out that this newly discovered Henipavirus, which may have come from animals, is associated with some febrile cases, and the infected people have symptoms including fever, fatigue, cough, anorexia, myalgia, and nausea.

How serious is it?

Global Times reported that Henipavirus can cause severe disease in animals and humans and are classified as biosafety Level 4 viruses with case fatality rates between 40-75 percent, according to the data from World Health Organization (WHO), highlighting that this is much higher than the fatality rate of the coronavirus.

So far there have not been any fatal or serious cases, as well as no cases of human to human transmission of langya virus. However, there is currently no vaccine or treatment for Henipavirus and the only treatment is supportive care to manage complications.

The auto-immune inflammation of blood vessels that left Ashton Kutcher unable to see, hear

Vasculitis Explained: Ashton Kutcher had a "weird, super rare form of vasculitis" two years ago that "knocked out" his vision, hearing, and "all my equilibrium". What is vasculitis? How is it treated?

Actor Ashton Kutcher had Vasculitis Explained: Actor Ashton Kutcher had a "weird, super rare form of vasculitis" two years ago that "knocked out" his vision, hearing, and "all my equilibrium". After a clip of his upcoming interview on National Geographic's 'Running Wild with Bear Grills: The Challenge' was released on entertainment news programme Access Hollywood on Monday (August 8), Kutcher clarified on Twitter that he "fully recovered" and it is now "all good".

What is vasculitis?

Vasculitis is simply an inflammation of blood vessels.

Inflammation is the natural response of the body's immune system to any injury or infection, which in normal course can help the body fight invading germs. However, in vasculitis, the body's immune system turns on healthy blood vessels, causing them to swell up and narrow down. According to the UK's National Health Service, the trigger for vasculitis may be an infection or a drug, although the precise reason is often uncertain or unknown.

Vasculitis can be only a minor problem affecting the skin, or it can, like in the case of Kutcher, be a serious condition

that impacts the heart, kidneys or other vital organs. According to the UK's National Health Service, the trigger for vasculitis may be an infection or a drug, although the precise reason is often uncertain or unknown.

Vasculitis can be only a minor problem affecting the skin, or it can, like in the case of Kutcher, be a serious condition that impacts the heart, kidneys or other vital organs. Some of the diseases associated with vasculitis are Behcet's Disease, which is characterised by oral and genital ulcers and eye inflammation; Buerger's Disease, which mainly affects

smokers and leads to decreased flow of blood to the hands and feet; and EGPA, which is associated with asthma, sinusitis, and tends to involve the lungs, kidneys, and heart as well.

How is vasculitis treated?

Different types of inflammation cause different diseases, which have their own symptoms and treatment protocols. Steroids are frequently prescribed, as are some other medicines that reduce the activity of the immune system. Health organisations caution that some kinds of vasculitis can become serious problems if not treated.

Taiwan holds artillery drill simulating defence against China attack

Taiwan's military held a live-fire artillery drill simulating a defence of the island against an attack after days of massive Chinese war games over Nancy Pelosi's visit to the self-ruled island

(News Agency) Taiwan's military held a live-fire artillery drill Tuesday simulating a defence of the island against an attack after days of massive Chinese war games, an AFP journalist at the site of the exercise said. Lou Woei-jye, spokesman for Taiwan's Eighth Army Corps, confirmed the drills started in the southern county of Pingtung shortly after 0040 GMT with the firing of target flares and artillery, ending within an hour at 0130 GMT.

As the last round of cannon was fired, Taiwanese soldiers were heard shouting "mission accomplished". Taiwan lives under the constant threat of invasion by China, which views its neighbour as part of Chinese territory to be seized one day, by force if necessary. Taipei's drills,

taking place on Tuesday and Thursday, will include the deployment of hundreds of troops and about 40 howitzers, the army said. Lou said Monday the drills had already been scheduled and were not in response to China's exercises. The island routinely stages military drills simulating defence against a Chinese invasion, and last month practised repelling attacks from the sea in a "joint interception operation" as part of its largest annual exercises. The anti-landing exercises come after China extended its own joint sea and air drills around Taiwan on Monday, but Washington said it did not expect an escalation from Beijing. "I'm not worried, but I'm concerned they're moving as

much as they are. But I don't think they're going to do anything more than they are," Biden told reporters at Dover Air Force Base. Ahead of Tuesday's drill, Taipei condemned Beijing for carrying on with its military exercises around the island. "China's provocation and aggression have harmed the status quo of the Taiwan Strait and raised tensions in the region," the island's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Taiwan has insisted that no Chinese warplanes or ships entered its territorial waters -- within 12 nautical miles of land -- during Beijing's drills. The Chinese military, however, released a video last week of an air force pilot filming the island's coastline and mountains from his

cockpit, showing how close it had come to Taiwan's shores. Ballistic missiles were also fired over Taiwan's capital during the exercises last week, according to Chinese state media. The scale and intensity of China's drills -- as well as its withdrawal from key talks on climate and defence -- have triggered outrage in the United States and other democracies. But Beijing on Monday defended its behaviour as "firm, forceful and appropriate" to American provocation. "(We) are only issuing a warning to the perpetrators," foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a regular briefing, promising China would "firmly smash the Taiwan authorities' illusion of gaining independence through the US".

China calls US 'main instigator' of Ukraine crisis

The Chinese ambassador to Moscow has called the United States the "main instigator" of the war in Ukraine and accused Washington of seeking to "crush" Russia

(News Agency) China, which Russia has sought as an ally since being cold-shouldered by the West over its invasion of Ukraine, has called the United States the "main instigator" of the crisis. In an interview with the Russian state news agency TASS published on Wednesday, China's ambassador to Moscow, Zhang Hanhui, accused Washington of backing Russia into a corner with repeated expansions of the NATO defence alliance and support for forces seeking to align Ukraine with the European Union rather than Moscow. "As the initiator and main instigator of the Ukrainian crisis, Washington, while imposing unprecedented comprehensive sanctions on Russia, continues to supply arms and military equipment to Ukraine," Zhang was quoted as saying. "Their ultimate goal is to exhaust and crush Russia with a protracted war and the cudgel of sanctions." The ambassador's reasoning closely followed one of Russia's own justifications of its invasion of Ukraine, which has resulted in thousands of deaths and the devastation of entire cities, as well as driving more than a quarter of the population to flee their homes. Russian President Vladimir Putin travelled to Beijing in February to meet President Xi Jinping as Russian tanks were massing on the Ukrainian border, agreeing what both states hailed as a "no limits" partnership superior to any Cold

War alliance. In the interview, Zhang said Sino-Russian relations had entered "the best period in history, characterised by the highest level of mutual trust, the highest degree of interaction, and the greatest strategic importance". He railed against U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit last week to self-governing Taiwan, which China claims as its own, and said the United States was trying to apply the same tactics in Ukraine and Taiwan to "revive a Cold War mentality, contain China and Russia, and provoke major power rivalry and confrontation".

Four Pakistani soldiers killed in suicide bombing in North Waziristan district

As many as four Pakistani soldiers were killed in a suicide bombing in the North Waziristan tribal district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

(News Agency) At least four Pakistani soldiers were killed and seven other people injured in a suicide attack in North Waziristan tribal district of the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military's media affairs wing said on Tuesday. A tri-wheeler rickshaw hit the vehicle of the security forces near Pattasi check post in Mir Ali tehsil region of the district, killing four soldiers and injuring seven, including two civilians, on Monday, the Inter-Services Public Relations Pakistan (ISPR) said. The seven injured included three sepoys, two naik-rank troops, and two civilians, according to a statement issued by the ISPR. Prime

Minister Shahbaz Sharif, expressing grief over the suicide attack, reiterated the nation's firm resolve to root out the menace of terrorism. Denouncing the attack, he said the terrorists will not be allowed to succeed in their sordid designs. Recently an uptick has been observed in the attacks on the security forces by the militants in the tribal districts despite a ceasefire committed by Tehreek-Taliban Pakistan. On July 4, at least 10 security personnel were injured when a suicide bomber attacked a convoy of security forces in the area.



Hindu family in Pakistan attacked by politician's relative for trying to overtake his car

A relative of a Pakistani politician and guards allegedly attacked a Hindu family after they tried to overtake his vehicle. The incident has triggered a massive uproar on social media and the video has gone viral

(By Staff Reporter) A Hindu family was attacked allegedly by a relative of a Pakistani politician and his guards in Pakistan's Sindh province after the family tried to overtake his vehicle, police said on Monday. The Inspector General of Sindh Police has ordered an inquiry into Sunday's incident after the incident triggered an uproar on social media as a video of the harassment went viral and people demanded justice for the victims, which included a man, three women

Sindh's Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdul Bari Pitafi, and his guards allegedly harassed and misbehaved with the family near Ghotki area after they tried to cross



his vehicle but they were repeatedly denied the right to overtake. "Apparently, as the family's car overtook Pitafi's car on the highway, one of the children threw an ice cream wrapper outside, which hit the windshield of Pitafi's vigo car and he was upset that the family did not even stop and sped away," police said. The family, which lives in Sanghar, was returning after visiting a temple known as Raharki Sahib, and later stopped at a roadside restaurant in Ghotki. Pitafi followed them there, and he and his men then allegedly misbehaved with the Hindu family and broke the windows of their car.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman invites ridicule over Taiwan restaurant tweet



(By Staff Reporter) A senior Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman's tweet where she used restaurant listings to assert Beijing's claim over Taiwan has led to tremendous ridicule online. "Baidu Maps show that there are 38 Shandong dumpling

restaurants and 67 Shanxi noodle restaurants in Taipei," spokeswoman Hua Chunying posted on the social media site late on Sunday. "Palates don't cheat. #Taiwan has always been a part of China. The long lost child will eventually return home," she added. Netizens had a field day over Hua's tweet as thousands of Twitter users took a jibe at the top official's logic. Notably, Twitter is banned in China and only accessible via special VPN software. "There are over 100 ramen restaurants in Taipei, so

Taiwan is definitely a part of Japan," a Twitter user with the handle "Marco Chu" wrote in Hua's replies. "Google Maps show that there are 17 McDonalds, 18 KFCs, 19 Burger Kings, and 19 Starbucks in Beijing. Palates don't cheat. #China has always been a part of America. The long lost child will eventually return home," Twitter user "@plasticreceiver" wrote. There were some who wondered if Hua's logic meant that Beijing could lay a claim on territories beyond the Asia

Pacific region as well. "There are 29 dumpling houses in the Greater Los Angeles area not to mention 89 noodle restaurants. Using Hua's logic, LA has always been a part of China," a handle under the name "Terry Adams" wrote. Hua's tweet follows a week of tensions around the Taiwan Strait. Beijing wasn't happy with US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to the island nation and responded by cancelling a series of talks and cooperation agreements with Washington. It also held military exercises around Taiwan.

Air strikes kill 51 in Gaza, people queue up at fuel stations in Bangladesh, and more

(News Agency) Russia is allegedly "openly blackmailing the whole world," according to Ukraine's nuclear agency Enerhoatom, by threatening to blow up the Zaporizhzhia power facility. According to Ukraine, Russian forces allegedly "wired" the nuclear plant's energy components with explosives. In another update, an Israel Defense Forces spokesperson told reporters at a briefing that the IDF believes 51 people were killed in Gaza during the most recent round of fighting, 24 of whom were members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror organisation. Russia is allegedly "openly blackmailing the whole world," according to Ukraine's nuclear agency Enerhoatom, by threatening to blow up the Zaporizhzhia power facility.

According to Ukraine, Russian forces allegedly "wired" the nuclear plant's energy components with explosives. 500 Russian soldiers and rocket launchers, according to the head of Ukraine's state nuclear power company, Enerhoatom, are stationed at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant site. An Israel Defense Forces spokesperson told reporters at a briefing that the IDF believes 51 people were killed in Gaza during the most recent round of fighting, 24 of whom were members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror organisation. The military claims their numbers are approximations. The military claims that 16 non-combatants were killed by Gazan rockets that missed their target. In order to increase the chances of domestic businesses, India is reportedly

trying to prevent Chinese companies from accessing its sub-\$150 (Rs 12000) phone market, according to a report from Bloomberg News on Monday, citing anonymous sources. The change, according to the article, would be devastating for Chinese businesses like Xiaomi and Realme.

People are queuing up at fuel stations late at night to fill up their tanks in Bangladesh after the price was hiked 52 per cent. Demanding the unexpected price increase be reversed, angry demonstrators surrounded fuel stations throughout Bangladesh. In the "highest ever" price hike since the country got independence, diesel rate went up by 34 Taka per litre. The inaugural small satellite launch vehicle (SSLV) of the Indian Space



Research Organization (ISRO), carrying the earth observation satellite EOS-02 and a co-passenger student spacecraft AzaadiSAT, did not launch as planned on Sunday. The mission failed because the SSLV-D1 placed the satellites in an elliptical orbit rather than a circular one, leaving them "unusable," as ISRO later said in a statement.

The Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022 edition came to an end on Monday (August 08) in Birmingham. The just-concluded edition was keenly awaited after Team India's heroics in Tokyo Olympics last year. The entire Indian contingent was filled with superstar athletes and the countrymen had high hopes and expectations from many star athletes. India did not disappoint and returned with a staggering 61 medals. Amid the turbulent situation in Ukraine, many known personalities of the world have paid a visit to the country. Joining the long list, Hollywood actress Jessica Chastain is the latest to visit the war-torn country amid the invasion. On Sunday, the actress met Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky in the country's capital Kyiv. The meeting was held in the presidential palace. This year on August 6, bells tolled in Hiroshima to mark the 77th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing. On August 6 and August 9 in 1945, the United States detonated two atomic bombs over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and for the first time, the world saw a new type of weapon of destruction.

China continues military drills around Taiwan

China carried out fresh military drills around Taiwan on Monday, Beijing said

(News Agency) China carried out fresh military drills around Taiwan Monday, Beijing said, defying calls for it to end its largest-ever exercises encircling the democratic island in the wake of a visit by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Beijing has raged at the trip by Pelosi -- the highest-ranking elected US official to visit Taiwan in decades -- ripping up a series of talks and cooperation agreements with Washington, most notably on climate change and defence. It has also deployed fighter jets, warships and ballistic missiles in what analysts have described as practice for a blockade and ultimate invasion of the self-ruled island which China claims as its territory. Those drills were expected to draw to a close on Sunday, but neither Beijing nor Taipei confirmed their conclusion, though

Taiwan's transport ministry said it had seen some evidence suggesting at least a partial drawdown.

China then Monday said they were ongoing, reporting "the eastern theatre of the Chinese People's Liberation Army continued to carry out practical joint exercises and training in the sea and airspace around Taiwan island." The exercises, the Chinese military's Eastern Command said, were "focusing on organising joint anti-submarine and sea assault operations". Beijing is also Monday set to carry out live fire drills in parts of the South China Sea and Yellow Sea. Taiwan has remained defiant throughout days of exercises by Beijing and is due to begin its own live-fire drills on Tuesday.

Su Tseng-chang, Taiwan's premier, said China

was "barbarously using military action" to disturb peace in the Taiwan Strait. "We call on the Chinese government not to go around wielding its military power, showing its muscles everywhere and jeopardising the peace of the region," he told reporters Sunday. Taipei's foreign ministry said the drills threatened "the region and even the world". To show how close it has got to Taiwan's shores, the Chinese military released a video of an air force pilot filming the island's coastline and mountains from his cockpit. The Eastern Command also shared a photo it said was of a warship on patrol with Taiwan's shoreline visible in the background. Ballistic missiles were also fired over Taiwan's capital during the exercises last week, according to Chinese state media.

US, Australia, Japan urge China to halt military exercises around Taiwan

China launched large-scale military exercises around Taiwan in response to the the visit of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taipei

(News Agency) The United States, Australia and Japan have urged China to immediately cease its military exercises launched following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei, as they reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. Pelosi, 82, was the highest-profile US official to visit Taiwan in 25 years. Pelosi's visit on Wednesday and her meetings with President Tsai Ing-wen and other leaders has infuriated China, which views the self-governed democratic island as its territory that should be reunified with the mainland, even by force.

China fired a barrage of ballistic missiles into the waters around Taiwan as it launched large-scale military exercises in response to her visit to Taipei. A joint statement was issued by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa after their in-person meeting in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, on the margins of the 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

"The Secretary and the Foreign Ministers

reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," the statement said on Saturday. Sharing the region's desire for diplomacy to avoid the risks of miscalculation, they expressed their concern about the People's Republic of China's (PRC) recent actions that gravely affect international peace and stability, including the use of large-scale military exercises. "They condemned the PRC's launch of ballistic missiles, five of which the Japanese government reported landed in its exclusive economic zones, raising tension and destabilising the region. The Secretary and the Foreign Ministers urged the PRC to immediately cease the military exercises," said the joint statement. "They appreciated ASEAN's statement about the importance of deescalating tension in the Taiwan Strait," according to the statement.

Southeast Asian countries on Thursday called for "maximum restraint" and urged the global community to avoid actions that



could destabilise the region and eventually lead to miscalculation, serious confrontation, open conflicts, and unpredictable consequences among major powers.

"The Secretary and the Foreign ministers reaffirmed their resolve in supporting ASEAN centrality, and the importance of the Pacific Islands Countries (PICs) as partners in the region," said the statement. The PIC network is composed of 14 countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated

States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. There is no change in the respective 'one China' policies, where applicable, and basic positions on Taiwan of Australia, Japan, or the United States, they said. "The Secretary and the Foreign Ministers expressed their commitment to deepening the trilateral partnership among Australia, Japan, and the United States to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific region," the statement said. They highlighted that their partnership rests on the unshakable foundation of shared interests and values, including a commitment to freedom, rule of law, human rights, sovereignty and territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes without resorting to threat or use of force, and freedom of navigation and overflight. Several world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the resource-rich region. China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it.

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Top Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan commander, 3 others killed in blast in Afghanistan

According to a report by Pakistani media on Monday, Omar Khalid Khorasani, a top commander of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and three other top militant leaders were killed in a blast in Afghanistan

(News Agency) A top commander of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Omar Khalid Khorasani and three other top militant leaders have been killed in a mysterious blast in eastern Afghanistan's Paktika province, a Pakistani media report said on Monday. A vehicle carrying senior commanders of the militant group, including Khorasani, was on Sunday targeted with a mysterious explosive device, according to Afghan officials and local sources, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

The top militants were travelling in the Birmal district of the province for a meeting when their vehicle hit a roadside mine, the report said.

All aboard the vehicle, also carrying other TTP commanders such as Abdul Wali Mohmand, Mufti Hassan, and Hafiz Dawlat



Khan, were killed in the explosion, The Express Tribune quoted a senior Afghan official as saying.

According to a local source, the TTP leaders were travelling "for consultation" when their vehicle hit a roadside mine on

Sunday. Khorasani, who belonged to the Mohmand tribal district, was considered a top member of the TTP — the militant group which wants to impose the law of Sharia across Pakistan. Khorasani, who carried a bounty of Rs 10

million on his head. Hafiz Dawlat from the Orakzai tribal district was an important member of the group and a close trustee of Khorasani, while Mufti Hassan hailed from the Malakand division and pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr

al-Baghdadi, the deceased leader of the Islamic State terrorist organisation.

TTP intelligence chief Abdul Rashid alias Uqabi Bajauri was also killed in a landmine blast in Kunar province of Afghanistan on Sunday morning, according to local Afghan sources. The TTP is yet to confirm these targeted killings of its top commanders, an incident that would certainly undermine the Afghan Taliban-brokered peace negotiations between the TTP and the Pakistan government. The news comes after the outlawed group and Pakistan reached a deadlock during their talks as the outfit refused to budge from its demand for the reversal of the merger of the erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan, the report said.

3 critical moments in China-Taiwan relations: A look back

As tensions flare-up between China and Taiwan, here's a look back at three critical moments in the China-Taiwan relations

(News Agency) Military exercises by China have intensified in the Taiwan strait, extending up to the Yellow Sea and encircling Taiwan, owing to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to the island. While she is the second American Speaker of the House of Representatives after Newt Gingrich to visit the island, the level of Chinese military and economic onslaught is unprecedented.

But, it certainly is not the first time that the Taiwan Strait is facing the heat from Beijing. There have been crises on at least three earlier occasions which have been marked by historians.

Brief history of the Taiwan question

The question of status arose because of the civil war within China between nationalist government forces led by Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong's Communist Party. Taiwan was an island that the Japanese took from the Qing dynasty and held from the late 17th century till their defeat in the Second World War in 1945, when they handed it to China.

In the bloody civil war of 1949, Chiang Kai-shek was defeated and fled to Taiwan where his party, the Kuomintang, ruled for decades till it slowly moved to a democracy. While China stakes claim on Taiwan, saying that China's Chiang Kai-shek (once rejected in mainland China) had wished to reclaim the mainland from Mao Zedong and create one whole China under him, Taipei says that Taiwan has never been a part of the

People's Republic of China since its inception in 1949. Therefore, Beijing cannot lay claim on the island. These arguments and counter-arguments did not stop the flare-ups between the two sides. The three critical moments in Taiwan-China relations are:

First Taiwan Strait crisis

The first Taiwan Strait crisis, also known as the Formosa crisis, marked a critical point in the US involvement in tensions between China and Taiwan.

In 1949, the Chinese civil war ended. In 1950, Republic of China (ROC) president Chiang Kai-shek and the Kuomintang (KMT), and 1.3 million anti-Communist Chinese supporters had fled from mainland China to Taiwan and the Communist People's Republic of China (PRC) took control of the mainland.

This was the first crisis that Taiwan faced. The ROC established its government in Taiwan and was recognised by the United States as the legitimate government for the whole of China. But, President Truman refused to intervene in the crisis militarily till the Korean War broke out in 1950 with North Korea supported by China and the Soviet Union and South Korea backed by the United Nations, with primary support coming from the US.

That is when America jumped into the crisis in the region and sent its Seventh Fleet into the Taiwan Strait to prevent further escalation, effectively putting Taiwan under American protection.

Second Taiwan Strait crisis

Also called the '1958 Taiwan Strait crisis' was a critical juncture in Taiwan-US



defence cooperation. The focus of this crisis were the islands of Kinmen (Quemoy) and the Matsu Islands along the east coast of mainland China (in the Taiwan Strait).

The People's Republic China (PRC) wanted to capture the island in the name of "liberating" it from Chinese Nationalist Party also known as the Kuomintang (KMT)/Republic of China (ROC). They also wanted to see America's commitment. In January 1955, the US Congress passed the Formosa Resolution which gave President Eisenhower total authority to defend Taiwan and the off-shore islands.

In August 1958, The Chinese Navy

began shelling at both Kinmen and some of the nearby Matsu islands. The intent was to cut supplies to Kinmen which they succeeded in doing until the American Naval warships assisted and escorted ROC Naval convoys to reach Kinmen, breaking China's blockade. The PRC did not fire at the American warships to refrain from a direct war with the US. On October of the same year, the PRC announced a unilateral ceasefire.

Third Taiwan Strait crisis

By the time the third major crisis came about, the United States had already recognised and accepted 'One-China' policy. The United States' One-China policy was first stated in the Shanghai Communiqué of 1972: The United States acknowledges that Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait maintain there is but one China and that Taiwan is a part of China. The United States does not challenge that position. Also known as the '1995-1996 Taiwan Strait crisis', tensions rose between Taiwan, China and the US, leading to a series of missile tests by the PRC in waters surrounding Taiwan. The catalyst for the crisis was the acceptance of an invitation by ROC (Taiwan) President Lee Teng-hui to his alma mater, Cornell university, in the United States, to deliver a speech on "Taiwan's Democratization Experience." China opposed any move to grant him visa as the US would have been in violation of the 'One China' policy and there would be consequences to bear.

Ex-Pakistan PM Imran Khan's top aide arrested for making 'seditious' remarks

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shehbaz Gill who is also a top aide of ex-PM Imran Khan was arrested on Tuesday for making "seditious" remarks

(SAI Bureau) A close aide of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan was on Tuesday arrested after pulling a private TV channel off air for airing his interview considered as seditious and threatening to national security. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shehbaz Gill, who is also a spokesperson of Khan, participated in an ARY News programme on Monday and heavily criticised the Shehbaz Sharif government for trying to pitch the former premier against the Army. The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) issued a show-cause notice to ARY News for airing what it called was "false, hateful and seditious" content based on "absolute disinformation with a clear and present threat to national security by instigating rebellion within the armed forces". As the notice was issued,

the transmission of the channel, known for its close ties with Khan and his party, began to go off air and finally its operation was suspended.

The suspicion of the channel was followed by the arrest of Gill. A spokesperson of the Islamabad police said that Gill has been arrested for "making statements against the state institutions and inciting the people to rebellion." Gill had alleged that the government was trying to provoke the lower and middle tier of the Army against

the PTI, claiming that the families of such "rank and file" support Imran Khan and



his party "which is fuelling rage within the government". Meanwhile, PTI chairman Khan has termed Gill's arrest as an "abduction". "This is an abduction not an arrest. Can such shameful acts take place

in any democracy? Political workers treated as enemies. And all to make us accept a foreign-backed government of crooks," he tweeted. PTI vice president Fawad Chaudhry tweeted, "Shehbaz Gill was picked up from Banigala Chowk by unidentified personnel in cars without number plates on them." PTI's former human rights minister Shireen Mazari claimed that the "abduction" of Gill and ARY being taken off air was part of a US regime change conspiracy. "ARY off screen by this civilian dictatorship Imported govt and now Shahbaz Gill 'arrested' or abducted from Bani Gala chowk. So it is clear a critical word and no arrest warrant u will be taken away! This is the grand design of US regime change conspiracy & its abettors," she tweeted.

First batch of Indian students stuck back home will arrive 'very soon': China

China on Tuesday said it is "confident" that the first batch of Indian students stuck back home due to the Covid-19 visa restrictions here would return in the "near future"

(SAI Bureau) China on Tuesday said it is "confident" that the first batch of Indian students stuck back home due to the Covid-19 visa restrictions here would return in the "near future", raising hopes for thousands of students waiting to re-join their colleges in this country. "The Chinese side has been working intensively for the return of foreign students to China," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here when asked about social media posts by some Chinese diplomats about the opening of a new visa policy for all foreign students soon.

"The process has begun for Indian and other foreign students to return to China to resume their studies. The departments responsible for this matter from both sides will continue their close communication on this," he said.

"We are confident in seeing the return of the first group of Indian students in the near future. Building on that, the Chinese side will further proceed with the return of other Indian students in a well thought-out and orderly manner," he said in updated comments posted on the foreign ministry website.

Asked at what stage is the process of the list provided by the Indian Embassy here about the Indian students wanting to return, he said "we kindly ask for your patience. There will be

timely updates on that". Over 23,000 Indian students, mostly studying medicine, are reportedly stuck back home due to Covid-19 visa restrictions. India has submitted a list of several hundred students after China sought the names of those wanting to return immediately to pursue their studies. Some students from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Russia and several

other countries arrived on chartered flights in recent weeks. China is also permitting flights from different countries but has yet to work out the opening of flights between the two countries. The flights between India and China which were halted at the height of the coronavirus pandemic two years ago remain suspended. Officials say the two countries are in talks to restore limited flights.



Sri Lanka to concentrate on promoting Ramayana trail to Indian tourists: Tourism envoy Jayasuriya

Sri Lanka's newly-appointed tourism ambassador Sanath Jayasuriya on Tuesday said his country will concentrate on promoting the Ramayana trail to Indian tourists

(SAI Bureau) Sri Lanka's newly-appointed tourism brand Ambassador and cricket legend Sanath Jayasuriya on Tuesday said his country will concentrate on promoting the Ramayana trail to Indian tourists, as the crisis-hit island nation seeks to boost tourism for economic recovery. Jayasuriya, a former Sri Lankan cricket captain, met India's High Commissioner in Colombo, Gopal Baglay, on Monday. "Sri Lanka's newly-appointed tourism brand Ambassador, cricket legend @Sanath07 met High Commissioner today. The meeting focused on strengthening ties between the people of India and Sri Lanka and promoting tourism as an instrument for economic recovery," the Indian High Commission tweeted. Responding to the tweet, Jayasuriya on Tuesday thanked

Baglay for agreeing to meet him. "We will concentrate on promoting the Ramayana



trail to the Indian tourists," he tweeted. Both India and Sri Lanka agreed in 2008 to work on enhancing shared cultural and religious values based on the Ramayana heritage. The Ramayana is one of the two major Sanskrit epics of ancient India and an important text of Hinduism. There are 52 sites on the Ramayana Trail in Sri

Lanka. India in May re-emerged as Sri Lanka's top inbound tourist market with 5,562 arrivals followed by the UK with 3,723 arrivals. The 53-year-old former Sri Lankan cricketer and captain was appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Tourism for Sri Lanka last week. Monday's meeting between Jayasuriya and Baglay was the second this year. Jayasuriya met with Baglay in April and sought India's assistance in obtaining essential medicines for Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has been witnessing one of the worst economic crises since its Independence in 1948. The government declared bankruptcy in mid-April by refusing to honour its international debt. India has been at the forefront of extending economic assistance of nearly USD 4 billion to Sri Lanka during the year.

In a first, US navy ship docks in India for repairs



vessels. He called this "a recognition for the modern infrastructure at the shipyard built to global standards."

The arrival of the USNS Charles Drew for repairs, according to Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar, is a symbol of a developing Indian shipbuilding industry. He called the occasion a "red-letter day" for the Indian shipbuilding industry and the Indo-US defence cooperation.

India currently has six significant shipyards with a combined annual revenue of around \$2 billion. We build ships for purposes other than our own needs. We have a design studio on staff that can create a variety of cutting-edge ships. "A brilliant example of the expansion of the Indian shipbuilding sector is the nation's first indigenous aircraft carrier, Vikrant," he remarked.

Dr. Kumar further argued that India and the US have been developing their relationship on the basis of shared ideals and perspectives about "an open, inclusive, and rule-based order in the Indo-Pacific and rest of the global common systems."

According to Dr. Kumar, India will

design and develop its first large-scale marine diesel engine over the next two to three years.

He said that a decision had been made to expand the capabilities of naval shipyards and that marine diesel engines of six megawatts and more will be designed and manufactured in India, marking a significant stride toward shipbuilding activities.

The Indian Navy will issue a request for proposals in this respect. The decision to create the diesel marine engine under the "make-one" approach, in which the government contributes 70% of the project cost for the design and development of the engine, has been made, he continued.

From August 7 to August 17, the USNS Charles Drew ship will be in the port for repairs.

According to Judith Ravin, the US Consul General in Chennai, "US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin restated their commitment to explore using Indian shipyards for repairs on US Navy vessels at the US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in April. The L&T Kattupalli shipyard's first repair of

a United States Navy ship, the Charles Drew, is a significant accomplishment that should be recognised as a testament to our deepened collaboration between the two countries. The Voyage Repair Availability (VRS) of USNS Charles Drew at L&T Kattupalli, according to Vice Chief of Naval Staff S.N. Ghormade, "shows the kind of mutual trust and also consolidates our role as a significant defence partner." This significant step between India and the US would improve maritime cooperation as well. According to Dr. Kumar, the Indo-US Defense partnership has made considerable strides in the recent few years. "We have seen a huge amount of traction in the defence industry cooperation. India's defence exports have increased significantly since the last four to five years. Exports have increased dramatically from 2015-2016 to the present. The US is a major market for Indian goods. This shipbuilding project opens a new section of defence exports. This is a further indication of the shipbuilding industry's maturation, he continued.

(SAI Bureau) A US Navy ship named 'Charles Drew' made history on Sunday when it landed in India for repairs and ancillary services at Larsen & Toubro's (L&T) Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai. This move added a new facet to the rapidly growing Indo-U.S. strategic cooperation. "This is the first ever repair of a US Navy ship in India. The U.S. Navy had awarded a contract to L&T's Shipyard at Kattupalli for undertaking maintenance of the ship. The event signifies the capabilities of Indian shipyards in the global ship repairing market," a Defence Ministry statement said. As reported by The Hindu, the USNS

Charles Drew will spend 11 days at the Kattupalli shipyard getting various repairs done.

At the India-US 2+2 in April, both countries decided to look at the possibility of using Indian shipyards for the upkeep and repair of ships owned by the US Maritime Sealift Command in order to assist with mid-voyage repairs of US naval ships.

J.D. Patil, a member of the executive council and advisor to the CEO of L&T for defence and smart technologies, stated that the Marine Sealift Command of the U.S. Navy had conducted a thorough evaluation of a few Indian shipyards before approving L&T to handle repairs on their

USA to provide additional \$4.5 billion to Ukraine; takes the total funding to \$8.5 billion

(SAI Bureau) To supplement Ukraine's war effort against Russia, the United States will provide an additional \$4.5 billion to Volodymyr Zelensky's government. According to Reuters, the US Agency for International Development, an independent federal agency that acts on guidance received from the Secretary of State announced the decision.

Reportedly, out of the total amount, \$3 billion will be disbursed in August only with the rest of the amount, expected to be released in coordination

government had disbursed \$1.3 billion before extending another \$1.7 billion in payment in July. Moreover, another \$1 billion weapons package has been pledged by the White House, taking the total monetary help directed towards Kyiv to an upward of \$8.5 billion.

Ever since the war broke out, Ukraine has been funnelling billions into the war to keep up with the Russians. However, Ukrainian officials have claimed that the country faces a potential \$5 billion shortfall in funds every month as the war drags on.

Ukraine's economy is still in a tight spot

Thus, USA's budget support has been helping the Ukrainian government keep things afloat with critical infrastructures such as hospitals and schools receiving electricity and gas supplies.

However, with the war

guzzling out the funds quickly and the US reaching its saturation point, experts have cast worries over Ukraine's inability to raise funds or access financing from external markets. If the current trend continues, Ukraine's annual deficit could rise to 25 per cent of GDP, which only stood at 3.5 per cent prior to the war.

What are signature elements in Biden's big climate and health bill?

(SAI Bureau) In a major victory for US President Joe Biden ahead of November's crucial midterm elections, the Senate has passed the climate and health bill worth \$750 billion. Marking the biggest investment in US history in the fight against climate change, the bill proposes a series of financial incentives aimed at steering the world's biggest economy away from fossil fuels. For example, every American who buys an electric vehicle will be allotted up to \$7,500 in tax credits and anyone installing solar panels on their roof would see 30 per cent of the cost subsidised.

From wind turbines to the processing of minerals needed for electric car batteries, around \$60 billion would be allocated for clean energy manufacturing. Through grants for home renovation to improve energy efficiency and access to less polluting modes of transportation, the same amount would go towards programs to help drive investment in underprivileged communities. In comparison to 2005's levels, the bill aims to help the United States reduce its carbon emissions by 40 percent by 2030. By reining in

skyrocketing prescription drug prices, the bill will help reduce the huge disparities in access to health care across the United States.

In order to yield better results, the nation's health insurance plan for those aged 65 and older, Medicare could be permitted to negotiate prices of certain medications directly with Big Pharma for the first time. If the prices rise faster than soaring US inflation the plan would require pharmaceutical companies to offer rebates on certain drugs.

Extending benefits under Barack Obama's signature Affordable Care, the bill will ensure cheaper prescription drugs. Seeking to pare down the federal deficit through the adoption of a minimum corporate tax of 15 percent for all companies, the Inflation Reduction Act will prevent certain massive firms from taking undue advantage of tax havens to pay far less than what they theoretically owe. Over the next 10 years, the measure could generate more than \$258 billion in tax revenue for US government coffers, according to estimates.



with the World Bank and the US Treasury department.

USA's \$8.5 billion help to Ukraine

With the authorisation of the \$4.5 billion tranche of payment, the US has made sure on its promise of the \$7.5 billion aid package signed by President Joe Biden in May. Earlier in June, the Biden

Twitter disobeyed orders of Indian govt, put third-largest market at risk: Elon Musk tells US court

In his countersuit, Elon Musk has claimed that Twitter disobeyed orders of the Indian government, thereby placing the company's third-largest market at risk

(SAI Bureau) Elon Musk, in his confidentially filed countersuit in Delaware court, relied on Twitter's litigation in India to counter the social media giant's claim of breach of their merger agreement by Musk. Musk has claimed that Twitter failed to disclose its litigation with and the investigation by the Indian government. According to Musk, Twitter initiated risky litigation against the Indian government—thereby placing Twitter's third largest market at risk.

Musk has claimed that Twitter's decision to challenge the Indian government's decisions is a departure from the ordinary course as it has in the past followed obligations imposed by governments, including going as far as blocking pro-Ukrainian accounts for the Russian government. Referring to India's IT Rules, Musk has argued that India's information technology ministry imposed certain rules in 2021 allowing the government to probe social media posts, demand identifying information, and prosecute companies that refused to comply. Musk has said that while he is a

proponent of free speech, he believes that moderation on Twitter should "hew close to the laws of countries in which Twitter operates." It has been claimed by Musk that as a result of India's new rules, Twitter faced various investigations by the Indian government, requests to moderate content, and requests to block certain accounts. India is Twitter's third largest market, and thus any investigation into Twitter that could lead to suspensions or interruptions of service in that market may constitute an MAE, which is a material adverse event.

Around July 6, 2022, Twitter launched a legal challenge against India's government in court, challenging certain demands made by the government—suggesting that Twitter was under investigation between the signing of the Merger Agreement and the filing of its legal challenge.

It has been stated, Twitter determined to challenge the Indian government in a lawsuit rather than follow its instructions pursuant to 2021 Information Technology rules. Musk and buyers were not given notice of



Twitter's decision to litigate against the Indian government and were not asked to provide consent.

According to Musk, there's been a breach of the agreement by Twitter as Musk and other buyers were not given notice of Twitter's decision to litigate with India.

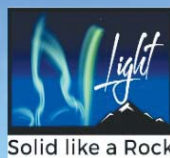
Dispute with India was publicly reorder, not cited as basis for termination till now

Twitter admitted that it did not contact Musk regarding its interactions with the Indian government. Twitter has averred that its publicly reported dispute over blocking orders issued by the Indian government was not cited a purported basis for termination by Musk parties until filing of the Counterclaims.

Disclosure of litigation with India not required under merger agreement. Twitter has denied Musk's allegations that the investigations had to be disclosed to Musk parties under Section 4.11 of the merger agreement. It has said that the section does not require the disclosure of the company's interactions with the Indian government.

India is not Twitter's third-largest market. Twitter has denied that India is its third-largest market. It has also denied the allegations any investigation into Twitter that could lead to suspensions or interruptions of service in that market may constitute an MAE. According to Twitter, these are hypothetical statements or legal conclusions to which no response is required.

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The first signs of global warming are now clearly visible. We urgently need to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Nothing and no-one will be spared from climate change. This warning is therefore to all people, all countries and, in particular, to the Belgian Council of Ministers who, on the weekend of March 20 and 21, will have to decide what action to take regarding essential measures linked to the Kyoto Protocol.



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Blinken's Africa tour: US and South Africa commit to strengthening bilateral cooperation and economic ties

(SAI Bureau) In the first strategic dialogue between South Africa and the US in seven years, both the countries have committed to strengthening bilateral cooperation and economic ties. International Relations and Cooperation Minister Naledi Pandor hosted US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is on a three nation Africa tour, on Monday in Pretoria.

Pandor described the US as one of South Africa's important partners. "I believe this is a strategic partnership based on common values, and is the foundation of strengthening bilateral engagements between our two countries. Our gathering here after a quiet period of almost seven years, presents an opportunity to reintegrate on various fronts. I believe we should place the economic recovery in Africa [at] the front and centre of our agenda," Pandor said. In her opening remarks ahead of the talks, Pandor told Blinken the US needed to relook at tariffs on steel and aluminium from South Africa. The US makes up about 17% of South Africa's export-output market.

"Our objective should be to expand two-way trade and investment which contribute to shared growth of countries. A start would be to quickly resolve the long-standing trade issues

around market access, including removing tariffs on SA steel and aluminium imports into the US. The South African government has been hard at work

to make it easier for foreign investors to invest in our country," Pandor said.

South Africa is the largest US trade partner in Africa.

Pandor welcomed the growth in two-way trade in goods from \$13.9 billion in 2010 to \$21 billion in 2021.

In 2021, the US ranked as the second largest destination for South Africa's exports globally. South African firms have also become significant foreign investors.

"Investments from South Africa into the US are on the increase, with the US accounting for 17.4% of total South African outward FDI to the world. There is, however, much more we can, and should do. As was discussed earlier this year at the meeting of the 12th Annual Bilateral Forum (ABF), our objective should be to significantly

expand two-way trade and investment that will contribute to the shared growth and prosperity of the people of South Africa and the US," the minister said.



Pandor also stressed on resolving the longstanding unresolved trade issues

around market access, including the removal of

Section 232 tariffs on South African steel and aluminium imports into the US.

"The president and his economic team, as we will hear later during our deliberations, have been hard at work making it easier for foreign investors to invest in our country and to advance our trade and investment relations for mutual benefit," Pandor said.

The US is South Africa's third largest trading partner with more than 600 US companies operating within South African borders. On rising costs of food and fuel prices, the minister said that world is going through an extraordinarily difficult period and many countries are having to contend with high costs of

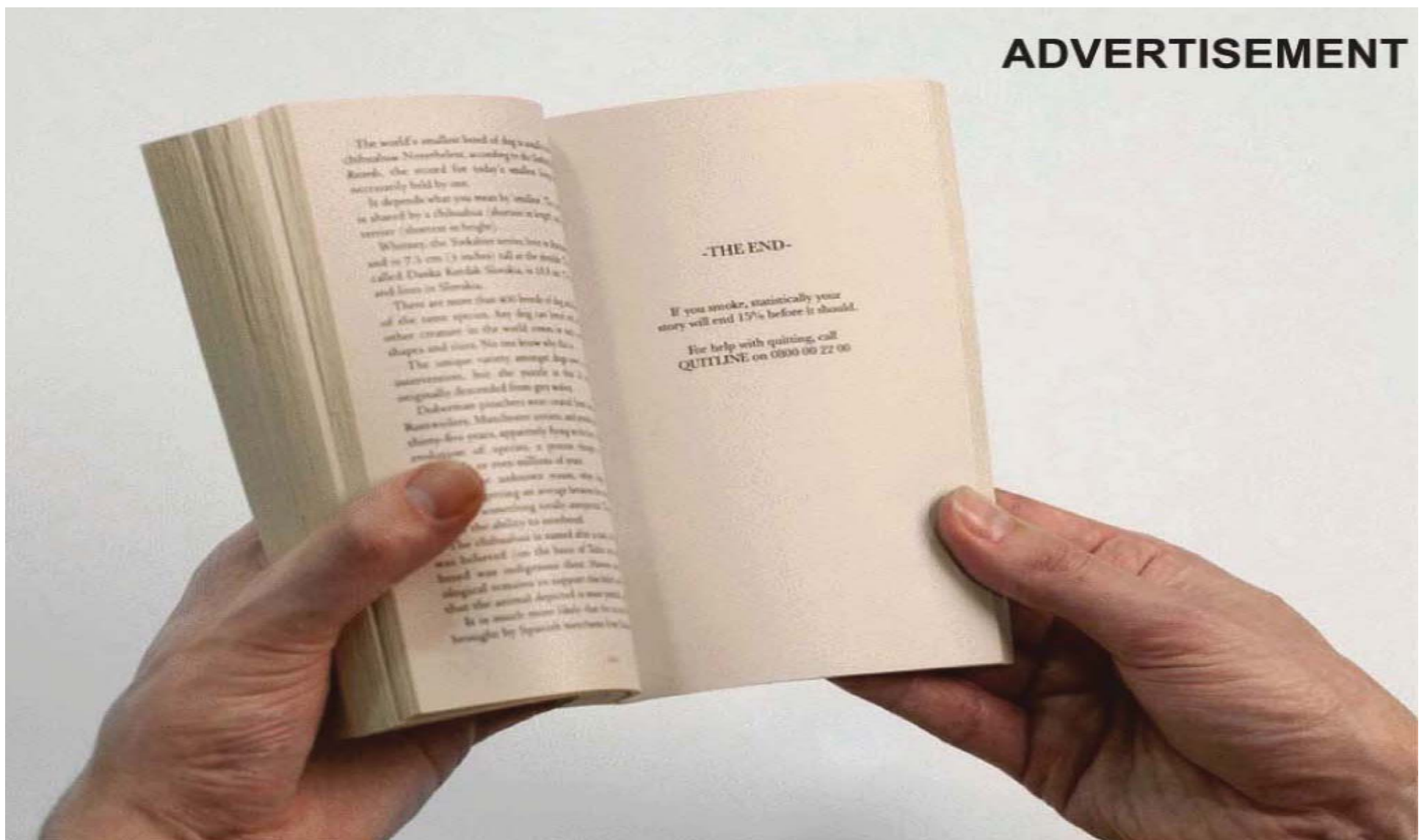
fuel, food and transport.

"The current global economic environment, which is marked by rising inequality, conflict, unequal technological advances and environmental degradation brought about by climate change, has huge implications for food security and agricultural systems, especially in Africa," she said.

Turning to climate change, Blinken said the US was committed to helping South Africa transition to a low-carbon economy.

"Climate is affecting both countries, and I think we all feel the urgency now. We have to find a way for an energy transition that allows us to meet most goals while supporting those most affected by climate change," Blinken said adding that focusing on economic trade, health and climate change was crucial for both countries. He said South Africa was a critical voice globally and his visit to the rainbow nation is to reinforce relations between the two countries. United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken believes his strategic dialogue visit to South Africa is the start of a new chapter in efforts to strengthen economic ties between the two countries.

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History of popular slogans raised during the Indian independence movement

How did the famous slogans first come about, and where have they come from? Inspiring and controversial, we explain the history of slogans that have endured in India's politics

Be it 'Jai Hind!' or 'Vande Mataram!', most of the popular patriotic slogans raised today are likely to have their origins in the movement for Indian independence.

Some of those slogans have been invoked in the modern day too, such as 'Inquilab Zindabad' during the anti-corruption protests led by Anna Hazare in 2011, and the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests of late 2019. But how did these calls first come about, and where have they come from? Inspiring and controversial, we explain the history of slogans that have endured in India's politics.

1. 'Jai Hind' by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

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struggle they have suffered defeat after defeat on so many fronts. The enemy having been thus considerably weakened, our fight for liberty has become very much easier than it was five years ago," he said, encouraging Indians to utilise the opportunity provided by the Second World War.

He added, "Such a rare and God-given opportunity comes once in a century...through the help of generous Nippon, it has become possible for Indians in East Asia to get arms to build up a modern army," as support of East Asian countries like Japan (called Nippon in Japanese) was a strategy he believed in.

Underlining his core philosophy of violence being necessary to achieve independence, he said, "Friends! My comrades in the War of Liberation! Today I demand of you one thing, above all. I demand of you blood. It is blood alone that can avenge the blood that the enemy has spilt. It is blood alone that can pay the price of freedom," ending the sentiment with "Tum mujhe khoon do, main tumhe aazadi doonga" (Give me blood and I promise you freedom).

3. 'Vande Mataram' by Bankim Chandra Chatterji

The term refers to a sense of respect expressed to the motherland. In 1870, Bengali novelist Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote a song which would go on to assume a national stature, but would also be seen as communally divisive by some.

Written in Bengali, the song titled 'Vande Mataram' would not be introduced into the public sphere until the publishing of the novel Anandamath in 1882, of which the song is a part. Vande Mataram would soon be at the forefront of sentiments expressed during the freedom movement.

The novel Anandamath, set in the early 1770s against the backdrop of the Fakir-Sannyasi Rebellion against the British in Bengal, came at a time of the Bengal agrarian crisis when the region was hit by three famines one after another. Chattopadhyay's novel held the Muslim Nawab responsible for the excruciating circumstances, claiming it was the Nawab bowing down to The East India Company that had caused such a situation. After the British rule ended, the song was in contention for being the national anthem, but was criticised by some and ended up becoming the national song instead.

4. 'Inquilab Zindabad' by Maulana Hasrat Mohani

Along with Swami Kumaranand — also involved in the Indian Communist movement — Mohani first raised the demand for complete independence or 'Poorna Swaraj', at the Ahmedabad session of the Congress in 1921. He was later elected a member of the Constituent Assembly and was also a member of the drafting committee of the Constitution along with Dr B R Ambedkar.

His stress on Inquilab was inspired by his urge to fight against social and economic inequality, along with colonialism. Before Mohani coined this slogan, the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia made the idea of revolution symbolic of the struggle for oppressed nationalities globally.

It was from the mid-1920s that this slogan became a war cry of Bhagat Singh and his Naujawan Bharat Sabha, as well as his Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). Bhagat Singh also wished for a social revolution to break age-old discriminatory practices. This slogan got major traction when he and B K Dutt dropped bombs in the Assembly on April 8, 1929, and shouted it.

5. 'Sarfaroshi ki Tamanna' by Bismil Azimabadi

"Sarfaroshi ki tamanna ab hamare dil men hai, dekhna hai zor kitna bazu-e-qatil men hai" (Our hearts are now longing to die for a good cause, that we shall see what strength the arms of killers possess), are the first two lines of a poem written by Bismil Azimabadi, a freedom fighter and poet from Bihar, after the Jallianwalah Bagh Massacre of 1921 in Amritsar, Punjab. In the poem, the line 'Sarfaroshi ki tamanna ab hamare dil men hai' is repeated, and the two lines have been used often in Hindi movies with patriotic themes. The lines were popularised by Ram Prasad Bismil, another revolutionary. They convey a deep longing to take on an enemy, a spirit seen in the way Bismil, an Urdu poet and revolutionary, was part of major events that raised the spirits of fellow freedom fighters at the time. He was a part of the Kakori train robbery, a successful and ambitious operation in which a train filled with British goods and money was robbed for Indian fighters to purchase arms.

6. 'Do or Die' by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

In 1942, with the Second World War commencing and the failure of Stafford Cripps Missions — which only promised India a 'dominion status' where it would still have to bear allegiance to the King of England — it was realised that the movement for freedom needed to be intensified.

On August 8, 1942, the All-India Congress Committee met in Gowalia Tank Maidan (August Kranti Maidan) in Bombay. Gandhi addressed thousands after the meeting to spell out the way forward. He told the people that he would firmly take his demands to the Viceroy, saying, "I am not going to be satisfied with anything short of complete freedom. Maybe he will propose the abolition of salt tax, etc. But I will say, 'Nothing less than freedom'".

He then told the people what they must do: "Here is a mantra, a short one, that I give you. Imprint it on your hearts, so that in every breath you give expression to it. The mantra is: 'Do or Die'. We shall either free India or die trying; we shall not live to see the perpetuation of our slavery."

Later, some organised protesters took to more violent methods, blowing up bridges, cutting telegraph wires, and taking apart railway lines. In Bihar and UP, a full-fledged rebellion began, with slogans of 'Thana jalao', 'Station phoonk do' that demanded burning of police stations and train stations, and 'Angrez bhaag gaya hai' (the Englishman has ran away). Trains were stopped, taken over, and national flags were put on them.

7. 'Quit India' by Yusuf Meherally

While Gandhi gave the clarion call of 'Quit India', the slogan was coined by Yusuf Meherally, a socialist and trade unionist who also served as Mayor of Mumbai. A few years ago, in 1928, Meherally had also coined the slogan "Simon Go Back" to protest the Simon Commission — that although was meant to work on Indian constitutional reform, but lacked any Indians.

According to Saad Ali, who was a part of the Quit India movement, Meherally was a Congress Socialist Party member who was actively involved in anti-government protests. "Meherally was very popular. Beaten badly during the Simon Commission Boycott, he'd never really recovered, and I nursed him during a phase of ill-health...I remember he'd read out the daily news to us", said Ali, speaking of their experiences in jail.

2024 is no longer a 'done deal' for BJP : Bihar coup has changed India's political landscape

Hope is a scarce commodity in the secular camp these days. Besides, the gadfly that he is, comrade sahib does not expect you to believe in his grand theorisation. He wants to provoke you into thinking. He had succeeded.

Indeed, the political coup in Bihar has changed the national political landscape. Just when 2024 was perceived and presented as a "done deal", just when the Opposition's shoulders were drooping after the presidential and vice-presidential elections, Bihar has thrown the game wide open. Just as it showed the way in the 1970s with the Bihar movement, setting the stage for a new phase in India's history culminating in the electoral revolution of 1977; just as Bihar inaugurated and led the Mandal era in Indian politics in the 1990s; Bihar appears to be showing the way once again. The slogan of the Bihar movement, "Andhakar me ek prakash—Jayaprakash, Jayaprakash", now carries a new meaning with Bihar emerging as the silver lining in the dark clouds that engulf the Republic of India on the eve of its diamond jubilee. 2024 was always going to be difficult for BJP

Let us think of India's electoral map as three strips. The first—the coastal belt—runs from West Bengal to Kerala. Add a few states like Punjab and Kashmir and you have a region where BJP is not the dominant political force. This region has 190 Lok Sabha seats. Last time the BJP won only 36 seats here (42, if you include its allies). Of these, 18 came from Bengal, where the BJP would struggle to retain even 5 after the post-assembly election meltdown. Allowing for marginal gains in Telangana to be offset by some losses in Odisha, the BJP could have ended up with around 25 seats in this region. It would need to pick up about 250 seats out of the remaining 353. Quite a task, you would agree.

Much of the BJP's seats come from the regions it dominates—the north-west, comprising the Hindi heartland; minus Bihar and Jharkhand; plus Gujarat. The BJP has swept this region, characterised by a straight fight between BJP and its major rival (mostly Congress, except in Uttar Pradesh) both in 2014 and 2019, winning 182 (including 3 for small partners) out of the total 203 seats last time. Let us make a generous assumption here that the BJP continues to dominate this region, that BJP suffers only marginal losses here due to a small swing in states like Haryana, Himachal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Even a partial revival of the Congress would upset this assumption. Even so, let us assume that BJP still wins 150 seats here.

Now it needs another 100 seats from the remaining 150 in the remaining 'middle belt' comprising Karnataka, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Bihar (add Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur) where the BJP faces a divided opposition. In 2019, the BJP won 130 seats here, 88 on its own.

This is where the BJP allies made a big difference: Shiv Sena won 18 seats while the Janata Dal (United) and Lok Janshakti Party secured 16 and 6 respectively. It is already clear that this region is going to be the BJP's Achilles heel this time. With Karnataka slipping away, a repeat of 25 out of 28 looks highly improbable in the state. This could be halved if the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) come to an understanding (Deve Gowda's rushing to welcome Nitish Kumar's switch could be a straw in the wind). The fall of Uddhav Thackeray government in Maharashtra has, inadvertently, cemented the Maha Vikas Aghadi as an electoral coalition in 2024. If so, there is no way the BJP-Shinde duo can repeat the BJP-Shiv Sena tally of 41 out of 48 seats in 2019. If we assume that the BJP does nearly as well in Assam and hill states as it did last time, we are still looking at a loss of at least 10 seats for the BJP, and about 25 if you count the allies as well.

Bihar makes all the difference. We have now accounted for 503 seats in the Lok Sabha. If we go by this realistic guesstimate, the BJP cannot possibly win more than 235 of these, even with its present dominance.

This is why Bihar matters. The BJP would need to pick up all the 40 seats in Bihar—37 out of 40 to be precise—to touch the majority mark in this scenario. It achieved this feat last time, thanks to its alliance with Nitish Kumar and the late Ram Vilas Paswan. The National Democratic Alliance bagged all but one seat in Bihar: 17 for BJP, 16 for JD(U) and 6 for the LJP. A repeat was going to be hard. But Nitish Kumar's switch has made it impossible. Far from a sweep for the BJP, you cannot rule out a reverse sweep for the RJD-JD(U) led combine that is likely to include the Left and the Congress.

Let us understand the electoral arithmetic of Bihar a little more closely. If the Nitish-Tejaswi Yadav alliance holds till the Lok Sabha elections, we are likely to witness a Mahagathbandhan (RJD+JD(U)+Congress+Left) vs. NDA (BJP+LJP) contest. A look at the last few elections, especially the assembly election of 2015 that serves as closest parallel, gives us a fair sense of the electoral strength of each party. The BJP has emerged as the largest vote catcher: its own vote share is around 20 per cent in assembly and 25 per cent in the parliamentary elections. The vote share for the RJD was 23 per cent in the last assembly elections but falls a few points in the parliamentary elections. The JD(U) claims about 15 per cent in either election. Other parties have a small range of vote share: about 7-9 per cent for Congress, about 4-5 per cent for the Left, mainly the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) and about 6 per cent

for the LJP. So, on a rough calculation, the Mahagathbandhan would be placed around 45 per cent vote share, compared to well below 35 per cent for the NDA (assuming that the BJP would go back to LJP and rope in a few smaller parties). If we look at the social composition of these two coalitions, it could become the agda vs. pichhda (forward vs. backward) electoral contest that can have only one outcome in Bihar: a landslide in favour of the camp of the 'backwards'. That would turn the tables completely on the BJP. If its opponents were fighting for survival in the last Lok Sabha elections, the BJP could struggle to win a handful of seats in the upcoming one.

BJP faces an uphill task now

Come back to the sum total of the middle belt with its 150 seats. Assuming that the BJP and its allies may not go beyond 5-10 seats in Bihar, the overall tally for the BJP in this region may fall from 88 to just 65 (or, more dramatically, from 130 to 75, for the BJP plus allies).

Now let us look at the national picture. If these back-of-the-envelope calculations make any sense, it is hard to see how the BJP's national tally might cross 240, way off the 272 mark. This is the difference that a loss of at least 30 seats in Bihar would make.

Can the NDA allies make up the deficit? Well, there is no NDA left now, except in name. With Akalis gone, AIADMK split, Shiv Sena high jacked and now the JD(U) exit, there is nothing left in the NDA except some tiny parties in the Northeast or some splinters of its ex-allies. These may at best contribute 10-15 seats, not enough to take it to the magic number. The BJP's policy of devouring its allies may have finally come home to roost.

Now comrade sahib was smiling with an I-told-you-so writ large on his toothless grin. I hastened to clarify: "I am not offering a poll forecast 21 months before the elections. That would be foolish. This elementary math tells us how a shift in Bihar can tip the national balance. Don't go by the BJP's bluster, 2024 is still heavily tilted against the BJP. The BJP needs nothing short of another Balakot to retain its majority. Unless, of course, the Opposition gives it a walkover."

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What is the Fifth Amendment, invoked by Donald Trump to not answer questions in business dealings probe case

Fifth Amendment is a constitutional right that gets high-profile exposure in settings from US Congress to TV crime shows, but there are nuances. Here's what it means to "plead (or take) the Fifth"

Former US president Donald Trump invoked the Fifth Amendment and refused to answer questions under oath in the New York attorney general's long-running civil investigation into his business dealings, the former president said in a statement Wednesday.

Trump announced that he "declined to answer the questions under the rights and privileges afforded to every citizen under the United States Constitution." "I once asked, 'If you're innocent, why are you taking the Fifth Amendment?' Now I know the answer to that question," the statement said. "When your family, your company, and all the people in your orbit have become the targets of an unfounded politically motivated Witch Hunt supported by lawyers, prosecutors and the Fake News Media, you have no choice." As vociferous as Trump has been in defending himself in written statements and on the rally stage, legal experts say the same strategy could have backfired in a deposition setting because anything he says could potentially be used in the parallel criminal investigation pursued by the Manhattan district attorney. Fifth Amendment is a constitutional right that gets high-profile exposure in settings from US Congress to TV crime shows, but there are nuances. Here's what it means to "plead (or take) the Fifth."

What is 'the fifth'?

The Fifth Amendment to the US

Constitution establishes a number of rights related to legal proceedings, including that no one "shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself". In the most direct sense, that means criminal defendants don't have to give damning testimony in their own cases. But it has come to apply in non-criminal contexts, too.

What is the reasoning behind this?

"It reflects many of our fundamental values and most noble aspirations," the Supreme Court wrote in 1964. The central one, is preventing people from being tortured into confessing or being shoehorned into a "cruel trilemma of self-accusation, perjury or contempt" of court. Many decades earlier, the court also questioned the reliability of confessions made under duress.

Does the amendment only apply to criminal cases?

Over time, the Fifth Amendment's protections have been understood to cover witnesses — not just defendants — in criminal and civil courts and other government settings. The Supreme Court has even held that Fifth Amendment rights protected the jobs of public employees who were fired after refusing to testify in investigations unless they got immunity from prosecution. The Fifth Amendment also underpins the famous Miranda warning about the right to remain silent

and have an attorney on hand while being

questioned in police custody.

So are there any limitations?

Under what has become the legal standard, the witness has to be facing a genuine risk of criminal prosecution, said Paul Cassell, a criminal law professor at the University of Utah. That means prosecution on any charge in any US court. There are sometimes disputes over whether the right is being invoked inappropriately. The questioning side can ask a judge to declare that someone needs to answer or face contempt of court and possible penalties.

Cassell said the courts have generally thought that they should give the benefit of the doubt to someone who might be criminally prosecuted, rather than force someone to testify and then have them regret it.

Can someone who takes the fifth answer only some of the questions?

Yes, it's not necessarily all-or-nothing. But even deciding to answer selectively could be risky: Responding to one question can enable the other side to argue that the witness can't refuse to answer other, related questions. Another concern is that seemingly safe questions could be meant to build evidence about an allegation that's not on the witness' radar yet.

Does invoking the fifth work against you?

Legally, it depends. In a criminal case,

prosecutors can't comment on a defendant's refusal to testify, and a jury can't be advised that it's OK to take defendants' silence as a sign of guilt. The Supreme Court has said that allowing that inference penalizes defendants for simply availing themselves of a constitutional protection. But in civil cases, jurors generally are allowed to hold silence against a defendant or witness. But there's the court of public opinion. "Does it look bad? In the general public's understanding, yes," says Howard University criminal law professor Lenese Herbert. "But that's just a result of poor civics education." The former federal prosecutor often reminds her students that while jurors might want to hear a defendant's side of the story, it's a defense attorney's job to make sure the jury understands that the client has the right not to take the stand.

Trump himself, years ago, repeatedly suggested that only people with something to hide avail themselves of the protection. "The mob takes the Fifth," he declared once.

What had team Trump said about this?

Trump lawyer Ronald Fischetti had earlier said that unless legal immunity is granted for the ex-president's deposition — a term for sworn pre-trial questioning out of court — he'd advise invoking the Fifth Amendment "because that's what the law provides".

UK drying up as Britain reels under yet another heatwave

Another heatwave has engulfed the United Kingdom. Temperatures are expected to reach 35 degrees Celsius by Friday and Saturday, prompting an amber weather warning (the second-most severe after red) and a hosepipe ban in some areas. The current heat wave is milder than the one in July, when temperatures hovered around 40 degrees Celsius, but a prolonged English summer with extreme heat and dryness is unprecedented in recent memory. "I've never seen a summer like this before," Ryan, a Whales resident, said while feeding the pigeons in Hyde Park.

Parks and Greek have suffered the most as water reserves have run dry. The stretches of green have turned brown, dry, and parched, making it an ideal breeding ground for wildfires. However, measures such as the government's hosepipe ban, which was implemented to limit water usage, can be counterproductive at times because they can cause fires. The emergency services are on standby.

'EXPECTED CHILLY WINDS, MILDER SUMMER'

Guillaume came all the way from the South of France to escape the heat, expecting chilly winds and a milder summer, but was gravely disappointed. "I chose London because it's usually chilly and milder than where I am from. So I usually use this [trip] to escape the heat wave, but not this time," Guillaume said as he searched for a lawn chair in the shade in one of London's parks. The warning from the weather office said that there is "very little meaningful rain" in the near future and temperatures will be on the rise in the coming week.

Chile's giant sinkhole grows wide enough to swallow India Gate: Everything you need to know about phenomenon

A giant sinkhole in Chile which first appeared on 30 July has now grown large enough to swallow India Gate. At the time of its discovery, the sinkhole covered a diameter of 105 feet. That number has now increased to 160 feet. The National Geology and Mining Service, also called Sernageomin, has sent experts to examine the hole which appeared in an area located 800 kilometres north of Chile's capital city of Santiago. Owing to the size of the sinkhole, officials around have ordered to stop work at a nearby copper mine. Let's take a look at what the phenomenon and other such incidents around the world.

Why do sinkholes appear?

As per the United States Geological Survey (USGS), a sinkhole is a depression in the ground that has no external surface drainage. Basically, when it rains, all of the water gets collected in the sinkhole which typically drains into the subsurface layer of the Earth. Geologists say that sinkholes are more likely to appear in areas that have soluble rocks — like salt beds and domes, gypsum, limestone — below the land's surface. These rocks can naturally dissolve into the groundwater that circulates through these holes. So, landscapes that have more soluble rocks underneath their soil are highly susceptible to huge underground spaces and caverns. As these rocks

dissolve more into the water and are carried away, the cracks widen up until the ground above them collapses. Similarly, developmental projects and other infrastructural activities can cause water to collect in certain areas and was away any supporting layer of rocks which can result in sinkholes.

How was the sinkhole in Chile discovered?

On 30 July, the hole appeared on land where Canada-based company Lundin Mining was running a copper mining operation. The company said in a statement, "Upon detection, the area was immediately isolated and the relevant regulatory authorities notified. There has been no impact to personnel, equipment or infrastructure." Sernageomin shared an aerial view of the hole on its Twitter account. Lundin further said that the sinkhole has remained stable since it was detected and the company is closely monitoring the nearby Alcaparrosa mine. Work has been suspended in the mine. The mayor of Tierra Amarilla, Cristóbal Zúñiga, has asked for clarification on the cause of the collapse. According to LiveScience, Cristóbal said that the mining operations at Alcaparrosa have already destroyed houses and streets in the area. "Today it happened in a space that's an agricultural property, but our greatest fear now is that this could happen in a populated place, on a street, in a school," he added.

State-level OBC groups must be included in central list

So, a caste may be included in the OBC list of a state and enjoy the reservation benefits in state government jobs and educational institutions but not with respect to central government jobs or educational institutions. Across all the states, there are hundreds of such OBC castes whose members are being denied reservation benefits in central government jobs. How did this happen? And what is the remedy? Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution make special provisions for socially and educationally backward classes of citizens (SEBCs, popularly known as OBCs), the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). So, provisions available to SCs and STs should have been extended to OBCs. In 1955, the first Backward Classes Commission identified and listed 2,399 castes as OBCs and recommended various welfare measures for the same. But, the then central government took the strange decision not to implement the recommendations of the Commission. It said, instead, that no

all-India lists of backward classes should be drawn up nor any reservation be made for any group of backward classes in central government jobs.

The second Backward Classes Commission known as the Mandal Commission, gave its report in 1980. This report leaned heavily on various state OBC lists to draw its list. But, unfortunately, once again nothing was done about the recommendations by the central governments for almost a decade. Finally, the V P Singh government decided to implement the recommendations. On the issue of inclusion of various castes in the central OBC lists, Singh said in Parliament: "While in the first phase, we are taking that which is common, those castes and minorities which are common to both the State Lists and the Mandal Commission List, in the next phase we will be interacting with the States and identifying 'socially and educationally backward' and in that sense, with this interaction we can make further progress regarding this."

The central government introduced a reservation of 27 per cent for OBCs in government jobs on August 13, 1990. The issue went to the Supreme Court. Pursuant to its judgment in what came to be known as the Indira Sawhney case, the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 was enacted and the central government reemphasised: "The OBCs for the purpose of the aforesaid reservation would comprise, in the first phase, the castes and communities which are common to both the lists in the report of the Mandal Commission and the State Governments' Lists."

It is thus clear that a class deemed as belonging to the OBC category by a state is a sufficient reason for the central government to include it in the Central OBC list for that state. In the Supreme Court, during the hearing of the Jat reservation case (Ram Singh and Ors vs Union of India), the Attorney General of India argued that the inclusion of classes or groups in state OBC lists is a strong and compelling

reason for the inclusion of such classes in the central lists because in our constitutional scheme, the Union and state governments need to work in tandem and not at cross purposes. The Supreme Court judgment validated this argument. The SCs and STs are identified as such "with respect to any State or Union Territory" and have only one list and one status at the state and central levels. So, why are the OBCs being identified differently? We all know that the most powerful jobs — IAS, IPS, IFS, IRS — are under the Centre and so are coveted educational institutions like the IITs, IIMs, AIIMS and central universities. The "two-status" castes are being denied reservations in all these important avenues. Before the government thinks of any sub-categorisation among the OBCs, it should give proportional representation to the OBCs after conducting an extensive caste census. But it must first end the discriminatory non-inclusion of hundreds of state-level OBC groups in the central OBC list.

Decoding Pelosi's Indo-Pacific Visit: Important for Both China And US to Try to Defuse Tensions

In Japan, she met Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and Hiroyuki Hosoda, her Japanese counterpart. Equally important were her delegation's trips to South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia. China's aggression in the region is already visible, not just in the Taiwan Strait but also in the South China Sea and with that the US's countermeasures too. Ahead of Pelosi's visit, the USS Ronald Reagan and her strike group were operational in the South China Sea after a visit to the Singapore port. While it was emphasised that the US aircraft carrier was on a routine patrol/FONOP, it coincided with the growing Chinese threats of action. What is noteworthy is that USS Ronald Reagan was operating in the South China Sea before making a call at the Singapore Port. Its return to the South China Sea has more to do with China's warnings. Global Times also reported that "Chinese naval training flotilla — composed of Type 055 large destroyer Yan'an (Hull 106) and Type

054A guided missile frigate Xianning — conducted a realistic combat training in the waters of South China Sea to test weapons, equipment and combat readiness of the crew". In Singapore, Pelosi reaffirmed the US's commitment to the Indo-Pacific. This was a much-needed assurance as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been most divided on how to approach the China-US rivalry. During her meetings in both Singapore and Malaysia, the focus was on the US's commitment to the Indo-Pacific region and strong partnerships with its members. This is a critical time for the US as it makes a re-entry in the region. It cannot afford to let the countries have doubts about its commitment to the Indo-Pacific. Pelosi clubbing her Taiwan visit with Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia indicates that these democracies figure prominently in the US Indo-Pacific strategy. Sensing their positive responses, the US is

stepping up the engagement. In Southeast Asia, Malaysia, and Singapore (of course, in addition to Indonesia) are the safest bets when it comes to democratic yardsticks, which was the undercurrent of Pelosi's visit to the region. While Pelosi's Taiwan visit and China's potential response are attracting the maximum attention, it is important to analyse and assess her visit and the US's policy in the wider Indo-Pacific region, especially in the context of China's growing aggression towards Taiwan. ASEAN issued a statement on the cross-strait tensions and expressed its concerns regarding "...the international and regional volatility, especially in the recent development in the area adjacent with the ASEAN region, which could destabilise the region and eventually could lead to miscalculation, serious confrontation, open conflicts and unpredictable consequences among major powers". ASEAN's concerns are valid. With

China overreacting to Pelosi's visit and sending dozens of aircraft and naval vessels and the US responding in equal measure by deploying more personnel and weaponry in Taiwan, the chances of an accidental war have gone up exponentially. As China scales up its retaliatory measures, the US and its allies will have no option but to spiral up the tensions. That said, both China and the US must understand that cross-strait tensions are not just between China and Taiwan; they impact the entire Indo-Pacific region. Pelosi's visit to the Indo-Pacific should have set the right tone for the US's engagement there, had China not reacted this strongly. It is important for both China and the US to try to contribute towards defusing the tensions, not just for Taiwan but for the entire Indo-Pacific region. Nobody is ready for a war, and even if they are, none would be able to afford it. And that precisely should be the guiding principle for the cross-strait dynamics.

Death penalty for rape: Both Ashok Gehlot and his critics miss the point

The criticism of Gehlot's comments from his political opponents, however, is equally devoid of substance. The Rajasthan CM has been criticised for his inability to curb increasing instances of sexual violence in the state. Rajasthan has been described as the "centre of atrocities against young girls." This allegation is not backed by evidence. Crime statistics compiled by the National Crimes Records Bureau, the only official data released by the Indian state, were last published for the year

2020. Besides, the NCRB only collects data through police complaints without any inquiry into the nature of cases. Given the immense empirical evidence demonstrating the criminalisation of adolescent sexuality by registering elopement cases as abduction and rape complaints, statistics on sexual violence need a deeper look. My own ethnographic study of rape trials in 2015 in Lucknow, published in the Indian Journal of Gender Studies, revealed that over 50 per cent of the trials were elopement

cases where the women's parents used the rape law to restrict their sexual autonomy and prosecute their partners. Research in other parts of the country has yielded similar findings. Despite the repeated calls from women and child rights activists to focus on governance reforms, the Centre has opted for punitive measures. Research documenting the experience of rape victims demonstrates that the gaps in the criminal legal system need to be fixed at the stages of reporting, investigation

and forensic examination. Moreover, victim support mechanisms are, by and large, absent. Calling out Gehlot for his government's failure in preventing sexual violence in Rajasthan will serve no purpose. That the death penalty for non-homicidal rape may push perpetrators to kill their victims has been a longstanding concern of women's groups in India. Construing all opposition to the death penalty for rapists as an anti-victim stance dismisses the rigorous research and groundwork of various child

and women's rights activists and prioritises vengeance as the only legitimate response to rape. This may not always coincide with a victim's idea of justice.

It is difficult to be not reactive to what comes across as a disingenuous comment from Gehlot. We may even feel the urge to take sides. But doing this will only take one away from the nuance that is necessary for any conversation on an issue as pervasive and complex as sexual violence.

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Chinese court rejects appeal in landmark #MeToo case against state TV host

A Chinese court rejected an appeal in a landmark sexual harassment case on Wednesday, dealing a blow to the country's fledgling #MeToo movement. Zhou Xiaoxuan stepped forward in 2018 to accuse popular state TV host Zhu Jun of forcibly kissing and groping her during her 2014 internship at the broadcaster.

Zhou's case inspired many others to share their experiences of sexual assault publicly and sparked a social media storm.

A Beijing court rejected her appeal on Wednesday, citing insufficient evidence.

Zhou's case was rejected last year on similar grounds, prompting her to appeal.

But the court said it had "rejected all the appeal requests by Zhou and will uphold the previous judgment".

Police cordoned off long stretches of pavement outside the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court ahead of her arrival this morning, with officers logging the details of passers-by.

"I still feel a little scared and dejected," she told AFP ahead of her appeal this morning.

"The process of the first trial was a deep secondary injury."

Zhou, 29, told AFP before returning to



court that her legal team would focus on getting access to more evidence, such as police transcripts of interviews with her parents after she reported the incident -- which were not included in the earlier trial -- and surveillance footage.

Zhou said Zhu was absent from earlier proceedings, and that while he had sued her for defamation, she was not aware of further developments in that case.

A small group of supporters came to wish Zhou luck on Wednesday, holding up signs that said "#MeToo" and balloons spelling out "All the best" in Chinese.

"Four years have passed, and the most important thing is that we have raised this question: When a woman encounters sexual harassment in a closed space, is her pain worth paying attention to?" Zhou said to supporters. "There may be no answer today, but the most important thing is that we put this question here."

- 'Too difficult' -

Zhou, also known by the pseudonym Xianzi, originally sued for a public apology from Zhu and 50,000 yuan (\$7,400) in damages.

Her first hearing in December 2020 drew a large crowd and a significant police presence in Beijing.

Reporters from foreign media outlets including AFP were dragged away by police while filming the scene.

"The process for my case has truly been too difficult," Zhou told AFP.

"I worry that other victims fear standing up for their rights after seeing what I've experienced."

But she added that with her case, "perhaps the next victim that walks into court can receive more trust".

Her case against Zhu was originally filed under the "personality rights" law -- covering rights relating to an individual's health and body. But her lawyers later asked for it to be considered under a new sexual harassment law that was passed in 2020. Despite that law, many women in China are still reluctant to come forward with harassment charges, and it is rare for cases to make it to court in a legal system that places a heavy burden on the claimant. The country's #MeToo movement has stumbled since 2018, when a wave of women published allegations of sexual harassment against university professors. Threatened at the time by the prospect of an uncontrolled mass movement, internet censors quickly began blocking social media hashtags and keywords.



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APOLLO
FARMS & RESORTS

Iran training Russian officials to use its combat drones

According to reports, Iran has begun training Russian officials to use its advanced drones amid the Ukraine war.

Iran is reportedly set to send hundreds of drones to Russia as Kremlin seeks to gain the upper hand in the Ukraine campaign which has dragged on for months without a clear sign of Russian victory. Reports quoting declassified intelligence reports in the US media claimed that Russia and Iran were engaged in secret talks to use drones. However, the development has been denied by both Russia and Iran. Ukraine has been using Turkish-made Bayraktar drones to devastating effect for the past five months ever since Russian President Vladimir Putin declared his "special military operation" against Ukraine on February 24. Russian officials had reportedly visited Iran to assess the drones with reports

indicating Putin's regime was eyeing the Shahed-129 and Shahed-191. National security adviser Jake Sullivan had earlier cautioned against growing closeness between Iran and Russia last month.

Jake Sullivan informed that Russian officials had visited Iran twice and they were seen at the Kashan airfield. Sullivan added that Russian officials had "received a showcase of Iranian-attack capable UAVs". The US had also released pictures of Russian officials. The latest move by Russia comes as reports said Turkey's Baykar which makes the deadly Bayraktar drones may build a drone factory in Ukraine. The US has provided several long-range missiles to Ukraine in the ongoing war with Russia including the Himar precision-guided missiles and has promised the Zelensky government several types of small drones.

Jagdeep Dhankhar to Take Oath as India's 14th Vice President Today Succeeding M Venkaiah Naidu

Jagdeep Dhankhar is set to take oath of office as the 14th Vice President of India today. President Droupadi Murmu will administer the oath at 12.30 p.m. Incumbent Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu's term is ending today.

The Vice President is also the chairperson of Rajya Sabha.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday hosted Naidu and his successor Dhankhar at his residence. Naidu and Birla shared insights and experiences on issues of national interest and parliamentary affairs with Vice President-elect Dhankhar, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said in a statement. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance candidate Dhankhar won the vice-presidential election on Sunday with a huge vote share of 74.36 per cent, the highest in the last six vice presidential elections, bagging 528 votes against joint Opposition pick Margaret Alva's 182 votes. A day after the election, the Election Commission on Sunday issued a certificate announcing the election of NDA candidate

Dhankhar as the 14th Vice President of India. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey signed the "Certification of the Election" of Dhankhar. A signed copy of the certificate was

handed over to the Union Home Secretary by senior Deputy Election Commissioner Dharmendra Sharma and Narendra N Butolia, senior Principal Secretary in the EC, the poll panel said. The signed copy will be read out at the time of oath taking ceremony of the



new Vice President on August 11. As the outgoing Vice President, Naidu hosted a series of high tea receptions in the last week for the officials and staffers of the VP Secretariat, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, the team of doctors and the Air Force crew who performed duties for him. Naidu was given an emotional farewell by the members at these gatherings, who recalled their pleasant memories of working for the Vice President, the statement said.

India to block sale of Chinese phones priced below \$150

In order to increase the chances of domestic businesses, India is reportedly trying to prevent Chinese companies from accessing its sub-\$150 (Rs 12000) phone market, according to a report from Bloomberg News on Monday, citing anonymous sources. The change, according to the article, would be devastating for Chinese businesses like Xiaomi and Realme. As per the Bloomberg story, the effort is intended to force Chinese goliaths out of the lowest section of the second-largest mobile market in the world. They claimed it correlates with growing anxiety over high-volume brands undercutting local producers, such as Realme and Transsion. They declined to be named because the conversation was delicate. China cannot afford to give up on the Indian market at this time. After China, the

nation of over 1.3 billion people in South Asia is the largest market for smartphones globally. Xiaomi and the other firms involved will suffer a great loss if the entry-level market in India is closed off. These businesses have experienced significant growth in the Indian market following the Chinese lockdown thanks to the potential there.

The coronavirus in China nearly put an end to the market for phones because people there are already

technologically sophisticated and have access to smartphones. Smartphones priced under \$150 made up a third of sales in the three months ending June



2022, according to market researcher Counterpoint. And in that, Chinese smartphone manufacturers held an 80% stake. Xiaomi and its rivals, Oppo

and Vivo, have already been exposed to intense financial examination by New Delhi, which has resulted in tax demands and claims of money laundering. The government has already used clandestine methods to outlaw communications equipment made by ZTE Corp. and Huawei Technologies Co. Although there isn't a formal policy that forbids Chinese networking equipment, wireless operators are urged to buy alternatives. Since Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co. charge more for their phones, the change shouldn't have an impact on them. Requests for comment from Transsion, Realme, and Xiaomi representatives went unanswered. Inquiries from Bloomberg News went unanswered by the technology ministry of India's spokespeople as well.

Even as Russia continues to deny an attack, before & after images of Crimea air base show significant damage

The Russian Defense Ministry rapidly downplayed the damage after explosions tore through a Russian air base in Crimea on Tuesday, claiming that an ammunition blast had left no victims and that no equipment had been destroyed. However, now satellite images by US-based Planet Labs point to the contrary. Pictures of Saky air base near Novofedorivka on the west coast of the

peninsula display significant areas of burned ground left over from fires that had erupted after the explosions. The main runways of the base appear to be undamaged, according to a BBC report, but at least eight aircraft appear to have been damaged or destroyed, with multiple craters being clearly visible. It points out that the majority of damaged aircraft are located in a specific location of the

base where several aircraft were left without the protection of hangars and parked in the open.

As per the New York Times, videos taken at the scene and a report by local officials, who subsequently issued a state of emergency, painted a different picture. At least one fatality, more than a dozen injuries were reported, and hundreds of others have apparently been moved to

shelters. Officials reported that 20 stores, other buildings, and more than 60 apartment buildings had been damaged. However, it is still unclear how or by what the base was damaged. Russia insists that the fire safety regulations were disregarded, which led to ammunition exploding in a store and causing the explosions. Ukraine has not claimed responsibility. In a statement, the Ukrainian

defence ministry said it "once again draws attention to fire safety rules". As Reuters points out, Ukraine used language that was highly suggestive and reminiscent of its response to mysterious blasts on Russian soil. "I think that Russian military guys in this airbase ruined their very simply known rule: don't smoke in dangerous places," said Ukrainian Defense minister, Oleksiy Reznikov. "That's it."

Kashmir Killings Continue: More Deaths Add to List as Militants Now Kill Migrant from Bihar



- Arbind Kumar Sah, golgappa hawker from Bihar - Sah was shot dead by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir at point-blank range on October 17, 2021.

- Manzoor Lone, resident of Kulgam – Manzoor Lone, father of a two-month-old baby, was killed during an encounter between terrorists and security forces at Redwani area in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on August 5. "Injured civilian namely Manzoor Lone S/O Abdullah Lone R/O Redwani Bala Kulgam succumbed to his injuries. Injured Army Jawan Kiran Singh of 1RR, R/O Ramban is hospitalised at 92 base Hospital Srinagar. Search operation concluded," the police

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APOLLO
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India Watches Closely as Taiwan Setback Pushes China into a Frenzy

The last few days have certainly not been China's best. Back-to-back diplomatic setbacks should have ideally sobered Beijing down, but it has chosen to react violently instead. Nancy Pelosi's Taiwan visit has exposed many chinks in China's armour. Having spiralled into a complete squawker, desperately fighting an information war both back home and globally, Beijing has turned into a caricature of itself. India, meanwhile, is watching closely as Wang Yi flutters around the neighbourhood looking for affirmation for his country's wounded One China principle.

Wang Yi, during his visit to Dhaka, praised Bangladesh's commitment to "One China". China has also been welcoming favourable statements from Russia, Pakistan, Iran and Sri Lanka. At the recent ASEAN ministerial meeting, however, China did not have such a healing experience. Wang Yi stormed out of the Gala Dinner organised for the ministers in Phnom Penh, reportedly at the sight of his American counterpart Antony Blinken. For Blinken and India's Minister of External Affairs Dr S Jaishankar, it seemed like business as usual. ASEAN countries, meanwhile, made it a point to raise the situation in the South China Sea and upheld the need to follow the United Nations Convention for Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) in a clear swipe at China. It also said that the Taiwan situation could lead to "miscalculation, serious confrontation, open conflicts and unpredictable consequences among major powers." Australia and Japan also joined the United States in urging

China to immediately cease its activities in the Taiwan Strait. Both nations have also in the past indicated that they would defend Taiwan in the event of an invasion by the Chinese PLA.

China's military exercises in the Taiwan strait, which came in response to Pelosi's historic visit to the island are unlikely to turn into a full blown invasion. While simulating a blockade and invasion of Taiwan, Beijing gave away much of its plans for adversaries including Taiwan, the US and Japan to note. Having launched a highly sophisticated military drill surrounding Taiwan, Chinese ships and jets infringed upon Taiwanese territorial waters and the island's airspace. Ballistic missiles also landed around Taiwan with one flying directly over it. What's noteworthy is that five among these allegedly fell into Japan's exclusive economic zone just north of Taiwan. In response to Japanese complaints, Hua Chunying, spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry said, "Since China and Japan have not yet carried out maritime delimitation in relevant waters, China does not accept the notion of so-called Japanese EEZ." Global Times commentator Hu Xijin, earlier the chief editor of the CCP mouthpiece, called the US, Japan and Australia a paper tiger, a paper dog and a paper cat, "in that order"—keeping things civil as always. But this is no way near his earlier suggestion to shoot Pelosi's plane down.

Clearly, emotions are running high for the Chinese regime—not only has China's bluff been called by Taiwan and the US, but its vulnerabilities are also

exposed even to the Chinese people who are looking for answers. In a way, China called this upon itself. Extremely aggressive rhetoric to deter Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, left China with no choice but to engage in intense sabre rattling. Whether this is enough to satiate the nationalists and distract the disgruntled from the economic disaster that Xi Jinping's zero-Covid policy is, is a question for another day. Moreover, Xi Jinping is well on his way to extending his Presidency for life. These circumstances can be spun to fit varying narratives by China and the US to suit themselves, but for countries like India or those contesting China's claims in the South China Sea—the plain hypocrisy in Beijing's reaction cannot fly under the radar. With China's expansionism as active as ever, it's a bit rich for Beijing to snivel about "territorial sovereignty" and "foreign interference in internal matters". Having captured and tyrannised vast territories like Tibet and Xinjiang, China has little to show for playing the victim. Its occupation of the Indian territory of Aksai Chin, its massive military build-up at the Himalayan border with India, its support for Pakistan's occupation of 30% of Jammu and Kashmir, and its own claims on the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, show just how little China cares about principles of territorial sovereignty and mutual respect for internal matters. Its claim on almost 80% of the South China Sea, again proves the same. Grousing about USA's support for a democratic Taiwan, while occupying and militarising disputed islands in the

South China Sea, looks like nothing but a clownish overreaction. Therefore, it's ironic that Wang Yi would so soberly and with a straight face state that the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state is the "golden rule of handling state-to-state relations," according to Chinese state media.

Taipei, meanwhile, is reinventing itself under the leadership of President Tsai Ing-wen—with the world's 21st largest economy and the world's sixth largest forex reserves, the ROC (Republic of China) has leveraged relations with the West to defend itself from the everlasting threat of a PLA invasion all while being a semiconductor powerhouse that the world today cannot do without. Moreover, the Taiwanese mainland is a fortress, and an all-out invasion would prove to be an expensive misadventure for China in every sense of the word.

China's One China principle is flailing. There is a reason why India has not 'reaffirmed' its commitment to the One China principle in over a decade, and why its Quad partners Japan and Australia have already started to voice their support for the democratic regime of Taiwan. Just as amid all the ruckus, there is no change in the one-China policy of the USA, Japan and Australia, there is room for India too to play similar manoeuvres, in a time of its own choosing, to keep the leaders in Beijing on edge, especially amid unfruitful border talks. Expanding trade and investment ties with Taiwan and sticking to its guns for a Taiwan-India trade deal, negotiations for which started in 2021, are all steps in the right direction.

Spiders dream like humans when they snooze, study finds

REM or Rapid Eye Movement sleep is characterized by shifting of eyes and increased brain activity. The body's muscles begin to paralyze, suppressing most body movements but allowing for slight fluttering of limbs

Scientists have found evidence to suggest that spiders might be more like humans than previously imagined. While they snooze, they might not just be resting, but perhaps even dreaming. Daniela C. Rößler, a behavioural ecologist from the University of Konstanz in Germany, along with her colleagues recorded baby jumping spiders (*Evarcha arcuata*) with infrared cameras overnight, and found that they exhibited characteristics that were similar to human sleep cycles, such as leg curling, twitching and eye movement. This could suggest that jumping spiders experience an "REM sleep-like state" that humans and other vertebrates undergo, the researchers claimed in their study published in the journal, *Proceedings*



of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS) on August 8. REM or Rapid Eye Movement sleep is characterized by shifting of eyes and increased brain

activity. The body's muscles begin to paralyze, suppressing most body movements but allowing for slight fluttering of limbs. This is the phase in which most people dream, and is

considered to play an integral role in learning and memory retention.

The most noticeable sign of REM sleep is the movement of the eyes, but it is difficult for researchers to determine how widespread it is amongst the animal kingdom, as insects and most terrestrial arthropods lack movable eyes. While the eight eyes of jumping spiders are fixed to their heads, they have long tubes that allow their retinas to move around at the back of their principal eyes. Baby spiders also temporarily lack pigment in their exoskeletons, which allows scientists to peer inside and observe the retinal tubes. Scientists have hypothesized that the eye movements which occur during REM sleep are reflective of visual dream sequences.

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Why does exercise trigger a heart attack like it did in Raju Srivastava?

A heart attack (acute myocardial infarction) can occur when soft plaques that form in the coronary arteries rupture and cause a large clot. This may come without any prior warning symptoms. Even plaques of 30 per cent can rupture and set up the formation of a large obstructive clot, says Prof K Srinath Reddy, a cardiologist, epidemiologist and president, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)



exertion, since available blood supply does not meet the increased oxygen demand of the exercising body and straining heart. However, a heart attack (acute myocardial infarction) can occur when soft plaques that form in the coronary arteries rupture and cause a large clot to form. This may come without any prior warning symptoms. Even plaques of 30 per cent can rupture and set up the formation of a large obstructive clot."

So how are plaques formed? "Plaques form in the coronary arteries due to injury caused to the blood vessel lining, by factors causing inflammation. High blood pressure, smoking, diabetes, unhealthy diets, stress, inadequate sleep or recent infection do that. Fat in the circulating blood then deposits at the site of injury to grow the plaque. Each of those chronic causes of inflammation can also acutely precipitate a plaque rupture leading to a heart attack, if there is a sudden or severe rise in one or more of those factors. Vigorous exercise too can cause plaque rupture or trigger electrical disturbances in

the heart leading to cardiac arrest," adds Dr Reddy.

EARLY MORNING SURGE

Most of these episodes happen early morning. "Usually there is an early morning surge of blood pressure, which is part of our evolutionary biology. Blood clotting tendency, too, is higher at that time. If a person who has some underlying coronary risk factors, has not slept well, is dehydrated and steps up to do vigorous exercise, plaque instability can lead to rupture and trigger large clot formation," explains Dr Reddy.

EXERCISE ISN'T BAD

This does not mean exercise is bad for the heart. "It is essential to detect and control the risk factors which build and rupture plaques in the coronary arteries. Care and caution are all the more needed in Indians who have an ethnic susceptibility to experiencing a heart attack at younger ages than other population groups, for several reasons," says Dr Reddy.

CARDIAC DEATHS

Sudden cardiac death during strenuous exercise like vigorous treadmill or snow shovelling

occurs in the background of known heart blockages or more often occult coronary artery disease or blockage of heart arteries that are yet undiagnosed. If a patient is revived in such a situation, he carries a better outcome as compared to sudden arrest at rest where the heart is usually weak (heart failure)," says Dr Suman Bhandari Visiting Consultant, Interventional Cardiology, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute. When treadmill is done at very high speed and /or inclination, there is a double impact, that is the heart rate and blood pressure, which is a determinant of the oxygen demand in the heart. High mets (metabolic equivalent) during higher speed and for prolonged periods can cause undue stress on a compromised heart circulation in a setting of heart blockages. They cause sudden arrhythmia, undue low blood pressure or a heart attack. Such people need to be evaluated urgently with coronary angiography and should have appropriate revascularisation, for example, stenting procedure as per current guidelines," adds Dr Bhandari.

(By Staff Reporter) Ace comedian and actor Raju Srivastava suffered a heart attack while working out in a gym. But his is not the first news of its kind. There have been many cases of treadmill deaths or even footballers crumbling in a heap while playing.

"Recently there have been reports of apparently fit individuals suffering a sudden heart attack while exercising on a treadmill or performing some other form of vigorous exercise. This sounds counterintuitive, since exercise is known to promote cardiac fitness and prevent heart attacks. While the specific circumstances of prior health status and intensity of

exercise undertaken are likely to vary across such cases, there are some general facts which will help to explain this apparent paradox," says Prof K. Srinath Reddy, a cardiologist, epidemiologist and president, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI).

UNDERSTANDING PLAQUE RUPTURE

Explaining these sudden episodes, Dr Reddy says, "Heart attacks are caused when there is a sudden blockage of blood supply in one of the coronary arteries that supplies blood to the heart muscle. Chronic obstruction of 70 per cent or more in a coronary artery produces angina or chest pain on

Health tips: Alternatives for junk food that can change your fitness game

While willpower is great, complete abstinence can often result in a junk food binge at a later stage and that's where finding suitable alternatives comes in – to help you satisfy your cravings the smarter way. Check out these 10 junk replacements that can change your fitness game

(By Staff Reporter) The taste of junk food can be so tempting however, if you're looking to get fitter, you will need to find a way to control these cravings. While it is completely okay to indulge in what you love once in a while, making healthier food choices and smarter behavioural strategies can go a long way in changing your fitness game.

We live in an era where junk food is not just a trend but for many it can be a means to an end due to its gratifying nature upon consumption and accessibility. Everyday there is someone launching new concepts of junk food that are mouth-watering and this kind of food is addictive because the levels of sugar, salt and fat trigger the pleasure points in our brains known as "sensory specific satiety" - the causal effect that leaves you craving for more!

While willpower is great, complete

abstinence can often result in a binge at a later stage and that's where finding suitable alternatives comes in – to help you satisfy your cravings the smarter way. In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Manan Vora, Sports Medicine Expert and Orthopaedic Surgeon, revealed a list of 5 junk foods and their replacements:

Kale chips instead of potato chips – At the end of the day, what you're really craving is that crunch. Replacing potato chips with kale chips not only provides the crunch, but it adds nutritional value to your food choice. Additionally, kale chips will have fewer grams of fat. Baking the chips and adding salt and pepper to it is also an option. The key with chips is portion control, we often get carried away once we start eating them, so it's important to decide the quantity beforehand and only eat that much.

Dark chocolate instead of chocolate -

The more chocolate is processed, the more it loses the qualities that make it healthy in the first place. Many of the benefits of chocolate come from flavanols (phytonutrients found in cocoa), which have antioxidant effects—and a very bitter taste but as it's fermented, alkalized, and roasted to help neutralize that taste, those flavanols start to disappear. Since dark chocolate contains a minimum of 35 percent cocoa, it keeps more of its health benefits than milk chocolate, which only contains under 10 percent cocoa, making it the better choice for you to consume.

Home-made smoothies instead of milkshakes - One great trait of smoothies is that you can sneak almost any fruit and many vegetables into them while still making them taste good. Studies show that eating sufficient fruits and vegetables each day reduces the risk of chronic

diseases and helps you maintain a healthy body weight. Additionally, smoothies will also be loaded with fibre, which is great for your overall health.

Lemon water instead of soda - Lemon water is a refreshing drink and an easy way to add a little extra vitamin C and antioxidants into your diet. Adding a splash of lemon to your water may make water more appealing to drink, which could help you cut back on drinking sugary sports drinks and juices. Lemon water may help improve digestion and even support weight loss.

5. Baked veggie fries instead of French fries - Basic veggie fries are cut vegetable spears or wedges tossed with a light coating of oil and salt, and then baked at a high temperature. The fries will be soft on the inside with a crispy, crunchy exterior. Try them out with carrot and sweet potato.

Climate change compensation fight brews ahead of COP27 summit

The world's 46 least developed countries, home to 14% of the global population, produce just 1% of the world's annual CO2 emissions from burning fossil fuels, according to the UN



Gambia and China. "That's been the critical juncture. We've been affected and talked about it for a long time. But now rich countries are being affected as well," said Saleemul Huq, an adviser to the Climate Vulnerable Forum group of 55 countries.

Wealthy countries also failed to deliver a promise for \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help poor countries lower emissions and prepare for climate change. read more Loss and damage payments would be in addition to that \$100 billion. "It's not ambiguous. Finance means money. It means put your hand in your pocket and bring out a dollar, a euro, a yen and put it on the table for the victims of climate change," Huq said.

HOPE DESPITE HURDLES

Just getting loss and damage finance into the COP27 discussion is proving contentious, as a proposal to add it to the agenda has not yet won broad support. The issue was also not added to pre-COP27 talks in June in Bonn, Germany. Talks there on U.N. technical

assistance on accounting for loss and damage also ended without agreement, due to disputes over how that scheme should be governed. COP27 will be no easier, as rich countries arrive with purse strings tightened by soaring energy costs, the economic fallout of the Ukraine war and the COVID-19 pandemic, which prompted wealthy countries spend trillions of dollars propping up their economies. "It's my hope that developing nations will galvanize their collective voices to push for adequate treatment of loss and damage," said Matthew Samuda, a minister in Jamaica's economic growth ministry who works on climate change. Historically, rich economies including the United States and the 27-country European Union have resisted steps that could assign legal liability or lead to compensation. Negotiators at last year's COP26 U.N. summit agreed to launch a two-year dialogue on loss and damage, but stopped short of setting up an actual fund. Putting the topic on the COP27 agenda

could open up discussions on where the money would come from, how it would be distributed or even how to define climate-induced losses. Some research suggests such losses could reach \$580 billion per year by 2030. "Everything's been left quite uncertain on how to rebuild the trust between developed and developing countries," said Alex Scott, climate diplomacy expert at think tank E3G. Still, some resource-challenged countries hope for a breakthrough. "We are hopeful that the international community will soon step up," said Madeleine Diouf Sarr, chair of the Least Developed Countries bloc in U.N. climate negotiations, pointing to a growing acknowledgement among rich countries of the need. During a visit to Pacific archipelago Palau last month, for example, Germany's foreign minister said her country would prioritise the issue in its own international climate policy. "This is an issue we haven't talked enough about for a very long time," Annalena Baerbock said. "And it really is about financing."

(By Staff Reporter) Tensions are mounting ahead of this year's U.N. climate summit, as vulnerable countries ramp up demands for rich countries to pay compensation for losses inflicted on the world's poorest people by climate change. When diplomats from nearly 200 countries meet on Nov. 7 in the beachside resort town of Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, negotiations will tackle how to cut the CO2 emissions causing climate change and cope with existing climate impacts, including deadly heatwaves, wildfires, rising seas and drought. But another issue is likely to dominate the talks: "loss

and damage," or climate-related destruction to homes, infrastructure and livelihoods in the poorest countries that have contributed least to global warming. The world's 46 least developed countries, home to 14% of the global population, produce just 1% of the world's annual CO2 emissions from burning fossil fuels, according to the UN. As COP27 approaches, climate losses are surging - in rich and poor countries alike. In recent weeks, wildfires have swallowed huge swathes of land in Morocco, Greece and Canada, drought has ravaged Italy's vineyards, and fatal floods hit

Human brain not designed to stay awake past midnight. Here's why

(By Staff Reporter) The human mind is not designed to be awake after midnight, according to a new theory that was published this year in *Frontiers in Network Physiology*. According to the study's authors, an alert mind is more perceptive of negative than pleasant feelings after midnight. They emphasise that staying up later than usual can cause the mind to become more receptive to thoughts of self-harm. According to the research, these variations may be significantly influenced by the human circadian rhythm, which is the body's natural internal process that synchronises the sleep-wake cycle every 24 hours. Previous research has examined the negative effects of interrupted or insufficient sleep, including heightened stress, cardiovascular conditions, and dopamine changes that may even result in addiction. Furthermore, uninterrupted sleep the previous night contributes to the next's improved intellect and general health. In light of this, the researchers decided to investigate if nocturnal



wakefulness, or choosing to be awake during the biological or circadian night, causes maladaptive behaviours, or actions that are counter to one's own interests, such as violent crime, drug usage, and even suicide thinking. The researchers examined "how mood, reward processing, and executive function differ during nighttime wakefulness," according to their research. The empirical data from previous studies on sleep and its effects on cognition and functioning were examined by the researchers. They contend that the human body and mind function according to a circadian clock, acting and feeling a certain way at

particular times. As a result, although molecular and brain functions are active during the day, the body seeks rest at night. Maladaptive behaviour may be influenced by nighttime wakefulness for evolutionary reasons as well. Due to the high risk of being hunted at night when early humans lived in the wild, the brain became more sensitive to unpleasant stimuli at this time.

Researchers discover 11 undetected space anomalies using 'nearest neighbour' method

(By Staff Reporter) It is quite common to find anomalies around the vast universe and a team of researchers have recently discovered 11 undetected ones with seven of them being potential supernova candidates. In the new study, which was published in 'New Astronomy' journal, the team said that the anomalies were detected using the 'nearest neighbour' method. It involved the use of artificial intelligence which analysed a number of digital images of the Northern sky which were taken around 2018. The team of researchers comprised of Matvey Kornilov, Associate Professor of the HSE University Faculty of Physics, according to Phys.org. The researchers said in the paper that they benefited from the increase in data over the last few years and were able to successfully identify the anomalies. "We described the properties of our simulations using a set of characteristics

expected to be observed in real astronomical bodies. In the dataset of approximately a million objects, we were looking for super-powerful supernovae, Type Ia supernovae, Type II supernovae, and tidal disruption events," Konstantin Malanchev, co-author of the paper and postdoc at the University of Illinois, said. "We refer to such classes of objects as anomalies. They are either very rare, with little-known properties, or appear interesting enough to merit further study," he added in the official statement. The process implemented by the team included observation of light curves in order to find the anomalies and maintaining data on all neighbouring objects from the earth. "This is a very good result," comments Maria Pruzhinskaya, a co-author of the paper and research fellow at the Sternberg Astronomical Institute said in the official statement.

Mysterious Chile sinkhole doubles in size, can submerge Statue of Unity

Initially, the hole near the town of Tierra Amarilla measured about 25 meters across, with water visible at the bottom



(By Staff Reporter) The Sinkhole, in Chile, is growing in size and which emerged out of nowhere over the last week it has nearly

doubled in size. The sinkhole has grown so much that the Statue of Unity can easily submerge inside it. At 185 meters, the Statue of Unity is the tallest in the world. The sinkhole stretches 50 meters across and goes down 200 meters. The sinkhole could easily devour Delhi's Qutub Minar, which is just 73 meters in height. Chile's National Service of Geology has it is still investigating the gaping hole near the Alcaparrosa mine operated by Canadian company

Lundin Mining, nearly 665 km north of the capital Santiago. Initially, the hole near the town of Tierra Amarilla measured about 25 meters across, with water visible at the bottom. The geology and mining service said it has installed water extraction pumps at the mine and in the next few days would investigate the mine's underground chambers for potential over-extraction, Reuters reported. The mining company had last week said the hole did not affect

workers or community members and that it was working to determine the cause. Lundin owns 80 per cent of the property and the rest is held by Japan's Sumitomo Corporation. The closest home to the sinkhole is more than 600 meters (1,969 feet) away while any populated area or public service is almost a kilometer away from the affected zone, making it easier for authorities to investigate the mysterious structure.

Heatwave dries up Italian river. A live WW-II bomb emerges

The bomb was an American-made device, which the army said contained 240 kilograms of explosives

(By Staff Reporter) In what is a bizarre discovery, a World War two bomb came to the surface as extreme heatwaves sweeping parts of Europe dried up a river in Italy. The water of the Po river in Italy dried up revealing the bomb, which has remained

submerged for over half a century. The bomb has been safely defused. Bomb experts came to the rescue as they recovered the remains of the bomb and conducted a controlled explosion, Reuters reported. The 450-kg (1,000-

pound) bomb was discovered near the northern village of Borgo Virgilio, close to the city of Mantua and nearly 3000 people were evacuated for the disposal operation. "The bomb was found by fishermen on the bank of the River Po due to a decrease in water levels caused by drought," Colonel Marco Nasi told Reuters, adding that it was no easy task to clear the bomb. The Army said that for the controlled explosion, not only were people evacuated from the area but airspace was shut down, and navigation along that stretch of the waterway as well as traffic on a railway line and state road close by were also halted. "At first, some of the inhabitants said they would not



move, but in the last few days, we think we have persuaded everyone," Borgo Virgilio's mayor, Francesco Aporti said. Once the experts removed the fuse, it was transported to a quarry in Medole municipality about 45 kilometers away, where it was detonated in a

controlled way. The Po river has been suffering from its worst drought for 70 years and the government declared a state of emergency last month for areas surrounding the river. Po, which is the country's longest river is responsible for roughly a third of Italy's agricultural production.

ISRO's SSLV satellite failure: What exactly went wrong? Here's the truth

(News Agency) The inaugural small satellite launch vehicle (SSLV) of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), carrying the earth observation satellite EOS-02 and a co-passenger student spacecraft AzaadiSAT, did not launch as planned on Sunday.

The mission failed because the SSLV-D1 placed the satellites in an elliptical orbit rather than a circular one, leaving them "unusable," as ISRO later said in a statement.

According to ISRO, "SSLV-D1 put the satellites into a 356 km x 76 km elliptical orbit rather than a 356 km circular orbit." Satellites are no longer functional. The problem has been correctly detected. The divergence was caused by the logic's failure to recognise a sensor failure and proceed with a salvage step.

What went wrong during the satellite launch?

ISRO's first small satellite launch vehicle (SSLV) blasted out from Sriharikota at 9:18 a.m. on Sunday. The space agency's purpose was to get a bigger

share of the small launch vehicle industry by placing satellites into Low Earth Orbit. According to a source in The Wire, the issue looked to be the SSLV's terminal stage, known as the velocity trimming module (VTM). The VTM was meant to burn for 20 seconds at 653 seconds the following launch, according to the launch profile. However, it barely burned for 0.1 seconds, depriving the rocket of the necessary height boost.

After the VTM burn, the two satellites on board the rocket, the primary EOS-2 Earth-observing satellite, and the secondary AzaadiSAT student satellite, separated from the vehicle. This implies they are also likely to have deviated from their original orbital routes and entered an elliptical orbit instead.

While providing updates on the launch on Sunday, the space agency tweeted at about 11.43 a.m. that "all the stages worked normally." Both satellites were launched. However, the orbit achieved was smaller than predicted, making it

unstable.

At 2.48 pm, ISRO claimed it has identified the mission to be a failure as well as the reason for failure.

ISRO chairperson S Somanath later said in a video statement, "The vehicle took off majestically with the burning of the first stage, and the subsequent S2 and S3 performed very well." The mission performed admirably, and when it reached a height of 356 kilometers, the satellites were separated. However, we later discovered an abnormality in the satellites' orbital positioning."

The chairperson went on to explain that when a satellite is deployed in such an orbit, it cannot keep course for long and falls off. "The satellites have already descended from that orbit and are no longer usable," Somanath explained. According to the ISRO, it was "logic inability to identify a sensor"

Not the first failure

This isn't the first time ISRO has had a problem with a mission launch. The

Polar Satellite Vehicle Launch (PSLV), today regarded as ISRO's reliable workhorse, failed on its first flight on September 20, 1993. The country's maiden experimental flight of SLV-3, carrying the Rohini Technology Payload, failed to deliver the satellite into its target orbit on August 10, 1979.

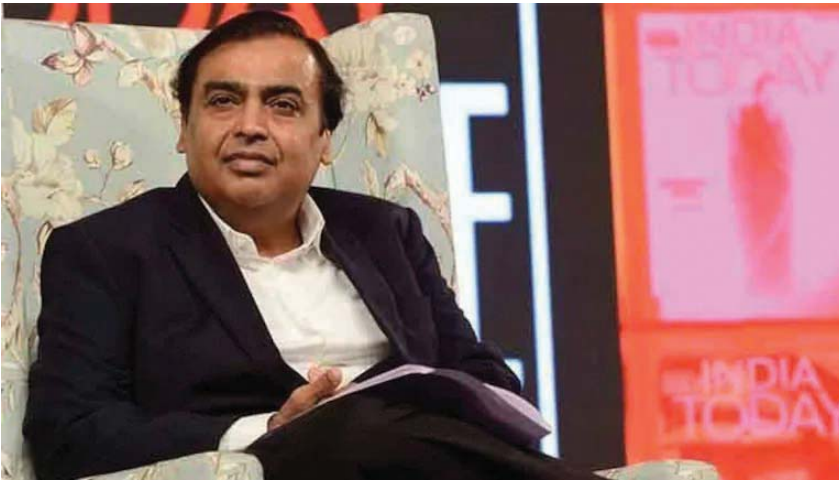
On September 7, 2019, ISRO suffered one of its most significant failures when the Chandrayaan 2 orbiter crashed on the lunar surface instead of softly landing and was destroyed along with the rover. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was present at the space agency to watch the historic flight, afterward cheered on the ISRO employees, saying what they had accomplished was no minor task.

In August 2021, the launch of GISAT-1, an earth observation satellite atop the GSLV Mk 2 rocket, failed just 350 seconds after liftoff from India's spaceport. It was caused by "a technical malfunction in the cryogenic stage," according to ISRO's preliminary study on launch day.

Mukesh Ambani draws nil salary for second year in row

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani, for the second year in a row, drew no salary from his flagship firm Reliance Industries

(News Agency) Billionaire Mukesh Ambani, for the second year in a row, drew no salary from his flagship firm Reliance Industries in the last fiscal as he voluntarily gave up remuneration in light of the pandemic hitting the business and economy. In its latest annual report, Reliance said Ambani's remuneration for the financial year 2020-21 was "nil". In June 2020, Mukesh D Ambani, the chairman and



managing director of Reliance Industries, voluntarily decided to forego his salary for the year 2020-21, in light of the Covid-19 outbreak in India, which exacted a huge toll on the societal, economic and industrial health of the nation. He continued to forego his salary in 2021-22 as well. In both these years, Ambani did not avail of any allowances, perquisites, retiral benefits, commission or stock options from chairman and managing director had his salary capped at Rs 15 crore since 2008-09 in order to set a personal example of moderation in managerial compensation levels. The Rs 15 crore salary in 2019-20 was the same as in the previous 11 years. Ambani has kept salary, perquisites, allowances and commission together at Rs 15 crore since 2008-09, forgoing over Rs 24 crore per annum. "In light of the Covid-

19 outbreak in India, which has exacted a huge toll on the societal, economic and industrial health of the nation, Mukesh D Ambani, the Chairman and Managing Director, has voluntarily decided to forego his salary," the company had said in June 2020. The remuneration of his cousins Nikhil and Hital Meswani remained unchanged at Rs 24 crore but this time it included a Rs 17.28 crore commission. Executive directors PMS Prasad and Pawan Kumar Kapil saw their remuneration fall marginally. While Prasad drew Rs 11.89 crore in 2021-22, down from Rs 11.99 crore in 2020-21, Kapil got Rs 4.22 crore, lower than Rs 4.24 crore in the previous year. The payment of Prasad and Kapil included "performance-linked incentives for FY 2020-21 paid in FY 2021-22," the annual report said. Ambani's wife Nita, a non-executive director on the company's board, earned Rs 5 lakh as a sitting fee and another Rs 2 crore commission for the year. She had in the previous year got Rs 8 lakh sitting fee and another Rs 1.65 crore commission. Apart from Ambani, the RIL board has the Meswani brothers, Prasad and Kapil as wholetime directors. Besides Nita Ambani, other non-executive directors include Dipak C Jain, Raghunath A Mashelkar, Adil Zainulbhai, Raminder Singh Gujral, Shumeet Banerji, former SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya and former CVC KV Chowdary. While all independent directors got a Rs 2 crore commission, Yasir O Al-Rumayyan, managing director and a board member of PIF - the sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, got Rs 1.40 crore. He was appointed to the board with effect from July 19, 2021.

Rupee falls 40 paise to close at 79.64 against US dollar

The rupee slumped 40 paise to close at 79.64 against the US dollar on Monday, amid waning risk appetite among investors



(News Agency) The rupee fell 40 paise to close at 79.64 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday amid waning risk appetite among investors. Lower global crude prices and a rally in domestic equities restricted the losses to some extent, forex dealers said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic currency opened weak at 79.50 per dollar. It oscillated between a high of 79.45 and a low of 79.65 during the session. It finally settled at 79.64, down 40 paise over its previous close of 79.24. The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.25 per cent to 106.57. Rupee falls 40 paise to close at 79.64 against US

dollar The rupee slumped 40 paise to close at 79.64 against the US dollar on Monday, amid waning risk appetite among investors. The rupee fell 40 paise to close at 79.64 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday amid waning risk appetite among investors. Lower global crude prices and a rally in domestic equities restricted the losses to some extent, forex dealers said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic currency opened weak at 79.50 per dollar. It oscillated between a high of 79.45 and a low of 79.65 during the session. It finally settled at 79.64, down 40 paise over its previous close of 79.24. The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.25 per cent to 106.57.

Paytm Jumps Over 6% On High Revenue Growth, Narrowing Losses in Q1; Should you Invest?

(News Agency) Paytm Shares Today: One97 Communications, which owns Paytm, shares surged more than 6 per cent in Monday's intraday trade after the digital financial services provider reported an 89 per cent jump in its revenue in the June quarter



to Rs 1,680 crore. Its revenue jumped on the back of an increase in subscription revenues due to the growing number of payment devices, growth in bill payments due to growing monthly transacting users (MTUs), growth in disbursements of loans by our partners through our platform, and an increase in commerce revenues. Paytm, however, reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 644.4 crore in the April-June period. The net loss widened from a loss of Rs 380.2 crore on a year-on-year basis, but narrowed from Rs 761.4 crore in the March 2022 quarter. The Vijay Shekhar Sharma-led company said that it is on track to achieve profitability by end of the September quarter of the current financial year.

During the quarter Paytm disbursed loans worth Rs 5,554 crore. The loan distribution business has scaled up significantly over the last 12 months, seeing increased

adoption by users. The number of loans at 8.5 million, grew 492 per cent year-on-year (YoY), while the value of loans grew 779 per cent YoY to Rs 5,554 crore, the company said. The stock jumped around six per cent to Rs 833.05 per share in early trade on the BSE. On Monday's high, the counter is still trading at over 57 per cent discount from its 52 week high value of Rs 1961.05.

What Should Investors Do Now?

Analysts at Yes Securities said that "Traction for bread-and-butter Payments Services business was reasonably broad-based with both the Consumer and Merchant sub-segments contributing Rs 5.19 bn and Rs 5.57 bn, growing 73 per cent and 67 per cent YoY, respectively. Financial Services revenue rose 4x YoY to Rs 2.71 bn for the quarter." On improvement in net payments margin, the brokerage said: "Net Payments

Syrma SGS Technology IPO Opens This Week: GMP, Dates, Details; All You Need to Know



equity shares by Veena Kumari Tandon. At the upper end of the price band, the company is expected to raise Rs 840 crore. The public issue will open on August 12 and close on August 18.

Syrma SGS Technology IPO: Objective

The net proceeds from the fresh issue will be utilised for funding capital expenditure requirements to expand manufacturing, R&D facilities, long-term working capital requirements, and general corporate purposes.

Syrma SGS Technology IPO: About the Company

Syrma SGS is a technology-focused engineering and design company engaged in turnkey electronics manufacturing services (EMS), specialising in precision manufacturing for diverse end-use industries, including industrial appliances, automotive, healthcare, consumer products, and IT industries.

The portfolio of products provided by the company to several industries is printed circuit board assemblies (PCBA), radio frequency identification (RFID) products, electromagnetic and electromechanical parts, motherboards, DRAM modules, solid state drives, USB drives, and other memory products.

Promoters Sandeep Tandon, Jasbir Singh Gujral, Veena Kumari Tandon, and Tancom Electronics - hold 57.12 per cent equity stake, while investors including South Asia Growth Fund II, Holdings LLC, and Malabar Select Fund own 7.53 per cent and 1.22 per cent stake, respectively in the company at the time of filing RHP.

Syrma SGS Technology IPO: Financials

The company posted a 16.6 per cent on-year growth in proforma profit at Rs 76.46 crore for the year ended March 2022 on the strong top line and

operating performance. Proforma revenue from operations grew by 43 per cent to Rs 1,266.6 crore and EBITDA increased by 23 per cent to Rs 143.70 crore compared to the year ending March 2021. EBITDA is earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortisation. Syрма SGS Technology IPO: Allotment, Listing Dates

The company will finalise the basis of the allotment of shares by August 23 and will initiate refunds to unsuccessful investors by August 24. Equity shares will get credited to the Demat accounts of eligible investors by August 25.

Syrma SGS Technology IPO: GMP Today

As per market observers, Syрма SGS Technology shares are available at a premium (GMP) of Rs 30 in the grey market today. The company's shares are expected to list on stock exchanges BSE and NSE on Friday, August 26, 2022.

(News Agency) Syрма SGS Technology IPO: After an 80-day lull amid market uncertainty, electronic manufacturing services firm Syрма SGS Technology said it will come out with its Rs 840-crore initial share sale on Friday, August 12, which will end two-and-a-half months of the gap in the initial public offering (IPO) market. The company has fixed a price band of Rs 209-220 per equity share for its IPO. Weak sentiment in the secondary markets and the weak demand for over a half dozen public issues launched in May after the mega IPO from state-owned LIC have impacted the primary market mood. Syрма SGS Technology IPO: Issue Size, DateThe public issue of Syрма SGS Technology comprises a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 766 crore, and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 33.69 lakh

Maruti marks 40 years of Suzuki JV, celebrates 'Joy of Mobility'

Maruti Suzuki India, in terms of production volume and sales, is now Suzuki Motor Corporation's largest subsidiary which currently holds 56.37 per cent of its equity stake

(News Agency) Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, on Monday, announced that it has completed 40 years as a joint venture with Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC) of Japan, which was signed between the Government of India and Japanese marque in 1982. It also revealed that it became a subsidiary of SMC in 2002. India's largest homegrown car-maker, in its Annual Integrated Report for FY22 titled '40 years of Maruti Suzuki - Joy of Mobility', said, "It has been 40 years since Suzuki Motor Corporation, Japan, entered the Indian car market as a joint venture partner in the company to fulfill the aspirations of millions of Indians to own a reliable, affordable and modern technology car." RC Bhargava, chairman, Maruti Suzuki, while recognising the company's contribution to the automobile sector over four decades, said, "This year is a landmark not only for your Company, but also for the country. We celebrate 75 years of Independence... Your Company also celebrates 40 years of the formation of the partnership with Suzuki of Japan... This resulted in the development of a modern competitive automobile industry in India, generation of millions of jobs and creation of immense wealth for the nation..." Maruti Suzuki India, in terms of production volume and sales, is now

SMC's largest subsidiary which currently holds 56.37 per cent of its equity stake. Currently, Maruti Suzuki is a public limited company and its shares are traded at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

"MSIL not only created a modern automobile industry in India but brought in new concepts of quality, productivity and competitiveness to manufacturing activities in India. We now have a large component manufacturing industry that is of global standards... To mark 40 years of this wonderful partnership, your Company is intending to launch a number of new initiatives," Bhargava added.

In FY22, Maruti Suzuki's total sales increased by 13.4 per cent to 16.52 lakh units. In comparison, total domestic passenger vehicle sales in the Indian market stood at 30,69,499 units in 2021-22, as compared to 27,11,457 units in 2020-21, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) data.

Maruti Suzuki also reported that it had lost out on sales in the first quarter of the fiscal due to the pandemic and production being affected by the shortage of semiconductors, mainly for domestic models. The company's

unmet bookings at the end of the year rose to about 2.7 lakhs, while its market share declined to 43.4 per cent from nearly 50 per cent as it lost some opportunity in the domestic market. Bhargava, while detailing the company's performance in FY22 and sharing optimism for the future, said, "During the current year (FY 2022-23), the vehicle production would increase as the situation regarding the availability of semi-conductors has improved. Your Company has also made further improvisations to enhance production. I am exhorting our team to reach 2 million units, though doing that remains a challenge." "We already have 26.3 MW of solar energy generation in operation in our plants at Gurgaon and Manesar. There is a plan to add another 21.85 MW by 2024. At Kharkhoda site, we plan to install another 20.0 MW of solar energy from the very beginning. Our employees are fully vaccinated and most have had the booster dose. We work closely with our supplier partners and dealers to ensure that they also adopt the best practices in respect of employee safety, health and adopting practices that would minimize risk of any damage from fire or other accidental causes," he said while

elaborating on carmaker's continued strong focus on health, safety and environment. Kenichi Ayukawa, Executive Vice Chairman, Maruti Suzuki - who had recently resigned as the Managing Director and CEO of the company and is moving on to higher responsibilities in Suzuki Japan - said, "Changes in technology, customer preference and many more aspects will surely bring more challenges. I am confident that Maruti Suzuki will use these as opportunities and emerge successful. As I handover the reins of this magnificent Company, I draw satisfaction that Maruti Suzuki is in the hands of able leadership led by Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi. I am sure under his leadership Maruti Suzuki will achieve even greater heights." Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki, in his first address to shareholders, shared his mission and said, "During the last 40 years, the Company has been satisfying mobility needs of many Indian people by providing affordable modern technology cars. However, only 3 per cent of Indian people enjoy the ownership of a car, and I would like to deliver this 'Joy of Mobility' to as many Indian people as possible. This is my personal mission. Majority of people love our products, and we also want them to join our large base of happy and loyal customers."

Subhash Ghai recalls asking Shah Rukh Khan to 'avoid his romantic side' in Pardes: 'Kept reminding him in every scene'

Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Pardes* has completed 25 years. The director Subhash Ghai has recalled how he had to request the actor to avoid his 'romantic side' to justify the character of a simple boy next door. The film also starred Mahima Chaudhry and Amrish Puri



(News Agency) How time flies! It's been 25 years since the romantic drama *Pardes* was released and to date, it's being watched by people — especially due to actors Shah Rukh Khan, Mahima Chaudhry and late Amrish Puri's stellar performances. Recalling helming the film, Subhash Ghai said, "*Pardes* is a very dear film to me. I would like to congratulate the entire cast and crew and especially the audience for continuing to shower their love even after 25 years. My team tells me that people keep on showering their love, keep

recalling the iconic scenes in the digital arena even today."

Apart from the plot, credit also goes to songs such as *Yeh Dil Deewana* and *Meri Mehbooba* for making *Pardes* one of the evergreen films of Bollywood. The music launch of the film was graced by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Sharing details on the same, Ghai added, "*Pardes* celebrated the rich culture of our country. I approached late Arun Jaitley ji to invite Vajpayee ji to our music launch. Also, the song, *I love my India* was released ahead of India's 50th Independence Day. It was a big coincidence. My heart goes out to India, I can go on and on describing the grandeur of this glorious nation.

It is another coincidence that today I am writing and composing a song for a video *Ghar Ghar Tiranga* to celebrate the 75th year of our independence." "I still remember people clapping and humming *I Love my India* while it was being played on the screen. What's more memorable is their reaction to my cameo wherein I can be seen singing *I Love my India* on screen, it embarrassed me, but it is a moment that I shall always cherish," he said. The filmmaker also spoke about his experience working with Shah Rukh Khan. "I kept reminding him in every scene and song that he has to avoid his compelling, romantic side to justify Arjun's character. It was challenging for him but he nailed it! I am overjoyed

over the fact that my baby is celebrating its silver jubilee and continues to receive unwavering adulation from the audience even after 25 years. I pour my heart and soul into every film of mine. Filmmaking is indeed a business but a business of the heart wherein you pour out all that you have for the audience to rejoice and relish," he said. *Pardes* also featured Apurva Agnihotri, Alok Nath and Himani Shivpuri in pivotal roles. The film revolved around the idea of values in Indian and Western culture. Shah Rukh played the lead role in the blockbuster hit and Mahima played his love interest. Khan played the role of Arjun, a man who is settled in a foreign land but still believes in the cultural values of his country.

Vidya Balan says it's 'unfortunate' Mission Mangal is seen as an 'Akshay Kumar film', despite having five female actors



Vidya Balan has talked about how her 2019 film, which had five female actors, was still seen as an 'Akshay Kumar film'

Actor Vidya Balan talked about the 2019 film *Mission Mangal* in a new interview. Vidya said that the film which featured Vidya along with other four female actors, was called an 'Akshay Kumar film' while the other female cast were not seen as the film's lead. *Mission Mangal* starred Vidya Balan, Sonakshi

Sinha, Taapsee Pannu, Kirti Kulhari, Nithya Menen and Sharman Joshi, apart from Akshay Kumar. The film, based on India's first Mars mission, made around ₹300 crore worldwide. Vidya said during *O Womaniya!* 2022 Adda organised by Film Companion, "The pandemic has become an easy excuse for people to say that now female-led films will not work in the theatres, because basically, our industry is going

through some kind of flux where a lot of our films are bombing, terribly. And they are your so-called, male hero-led films. But who takes the beating is the female-led films. Do you not realise that Gangubai Kathiawadi had no man spearheading it, it was Alia Bhatt. That film has done great numbers compared to a lot of other films with male heroes. It's very frustrating, because there's no logic to it." She added, "For example, even a film like *Mission Mangal*,

which did great business, finally it will be seen as an Akshay Kumar film, which is very unfortunate. It's not Akshay Kumar and five other leading ladies, because we're not being seen as having led the film in any way. But the story couldn't have been told with just Akshay Kumar, and it wasn't told with just him. Someone was talking to me about my last hits, and they didn't mention *Mission Mangal*, and they said, 'Woh toh Akshay Kumar...' and I was like, 'Did you not see me and four other female actors?' Vidya made her acting debut with the popular comedy show *Hum Paanch*, before making her film debut with *Parineeta* in 2006. Over the years, the actor has carved a niche doing several successful women-led films, such as *Kahaani*, *The Dirty Picture*, *Shakuntala Devi*, *Sherni*, and *Jalsa*. She has also worked in films such as *Parineeta*, *Bhool Bhulaiyya*, and *Halla Bol*. Her recently released and critically-acclaimed films include *Shakuntala Devi*, *Sherni*, and *Natkhah*.

Aamir Khan, Naga Chaitanya pay respects to India's war heroes at National War Memorial before *Laal Singh Chaddha* release



(News Agency) The cast of *Laal Singh Chaddha*--Aamir Khan, Naga Chaitanya, and Mona Singh paid respects to Indian war heroes at the National War Memorial in Delhi. Chaitanya shared a bunch of pictures from their visit on social media on Tuesday.

In the film, both Aamir and Chaitanya play soldiers in the Indian Army. *Laal Singh Chaddha* is scheduled to release in theatres this Friday. Sharing the pictures on Instagram, Naga Chaitanya wrote, "morning well spent at the National war memorial New Delhi with the team of #laalsinghchaddha. Such a lovely experience." Additional pictures were shared by the film's team as well. In the pictures, Aamir is seen with folded hands, bowing in front of a wall marked with the names of Indian Army soldiers who laid down their life in the Kargil War. In other pictures, Mona Singh and

Chaitanya are seen paying their respects at the same spot. In another picture, Aamir is seen interacting with some Indian Army personnel. *Laal Singh Chaddha* sees Aamir play a simple man from Punjab who joins the Indian Army, where he meets Bala, played by Chaitanya. The two fight together in the Kargil War. The film is the official Hindi remake of the Oscar-winning 1994 film *Forrest Gump*. The script of *Laal Singh Chaddha* is written by Atul Kulkarni. Speaking with HT earlier, Atul had said the film is completely different from the Hollywood original. "you would struggle to find what's not new."

Shehnaaz Gill reacts to reports of her leaving Salman Khan's Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali: 'My daily dose of entertainment'

Shehnaaz Gill has broken her silence amid reports about her exit from Salman Khan's Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali, which is expected to mark her Bollywood debut

(News Agency) Shehnaaz Gill has reacted to the numerous reports claiming she is no longer a part of Salman Khan-starrer Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali. While Shehnaaz or the film's team had never commented on reports of her being part of it, Shehnaaz finally confirmed it as she reacted to the latest rumours of her ouster. The Punjabi singer-actor will mark her Bollywood debut with the film. For the past few days, several reports claimed that Shehnaaz was ousted from Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali because she signed another project. Rumours also emerged that she has unfollowed Salman Khan on Instagram after the new development.

Shehnaaz reacted to it in a post on her Instagram Stories on Monday, without taking the name of the film or Salman. She wrote, "LOL! These rumors are my daily dose of entertainment since last few weeks. I can't wait for people to watch the movie and of course me too in the movie." Shehnaaz, who rose to fame after she participated in Salman

Khan-hosted Bigg Boss in 2019, will reportedly romance Jassie Gill in Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali. Salman will star opposite Pooja Hegde in the film. Shehnaaz was previously spotted with Raghav Juyal and Siddharth Nigam, her rumoured co-stars in the film, at Mumbai airport in June.

The action comedy film is directed by Farhad Samji and produced by Salman Khan Films and Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment. Jassie, Raghav, and Siddharth will reportedly play Salman's brothers in the film. As per reports, Salman's brother-in-law Ayush Sharma was also due to be part of the film, but had walked out at the last minute due to creative differences.

It is rumoured that Shehnaaz will also be part of a social comedy titled Thank you For Cumming, which will mark the directorial debut of Rhea Kapoor's husband Karan Boolani. The film will reportedly star Bhumi Pednekar and Anil Kapoor as well, but no official announcement has been made yet.



Kangana Ranaut, Kajol congratulate PV Sindhu for winning badminton gold medal at 2022 Commonwealth Games

On Monday, Kajol and Kangana Ranaut praised PV Sindhu on Instagram. Sindhu won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2022



(News Agency) On Monday, 2022 in Birmingham. Praising Indian shuttler PV Sindhu bagged her, actors Kangana Ranaut and a gold medal in the women's singles badminton at the ongoing Commonwealth Games. Kajol shared her picture with a note for Sindhu. Kangana shared pictures of Sindhu posing with her

medals in 2014 (bronze medal), 2018 (silver medal), and the latest one (gold medal). Kangana wrote, "A nation which is led by young women is rooted in culture, kindness and high moral values. Congratulates PV Sindhu, not just for the medals but also for the role model that you have emerged as." Kajol also shared a photo of Sindhu and wrote, "An absolutely outstanding performance by our ace shuttler. Congratulations PV Sindhu on winning the Gold Medal."

PV Sindhu clinched India's first

gold medal in Badminton at the ongoing Commonwealth Games 2022 and the first women's singles CWG gold medal of her career by defeating Canada's Michelle Li in the final on Monday. On Saturday, Kangana lauded the athletes who have won medals for the country at the Commonwealth Games. Sharing a bunch of photos of Tejaswin Shankar, Tulika Maan, Bajrangi Punia, and Sakshi Malik, Kangana wrote, "The way Indian sportspersons are taking over the world they will make sure being Indian never associated with any

lack or weakness.. it will be synonymous of being superior and unbeatable, thank you, team."

Kangana is currently working on her directorial, titled Emergency. She has already unveiled her look as Indira Gandhi, Anupam Kher's look as Jayaprakash Narayan, and Shreyas Talpade as Atal Bihari Vajpayee. She will also be essaying the role of Sita in the upcoming Hindi-language devotional drama film Sita- The Incarnation. Kangana also has Tejas lined up for release, in which she plays an Air Force pilot.

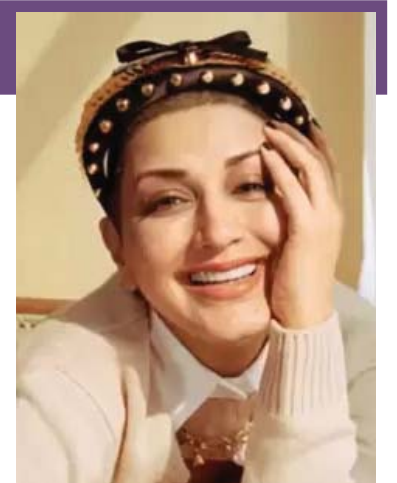
Sonali Bendre says she had '30% survival chance' after breast cancer diagnosis: 'Testing went up after my news came out'

Sonali Bendre talked about her 2018 cancer diagnosis in a new interview. Recalling the time, she said that doctors told her that her chances to survive was very less

(News Agency) Actor Sonali Bendre was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer in 2018 and underwent treatment for the same in the US. After beating the disease later that year, she has been encouraging women to get themselves tested for breast cancer. In a new interview, Sonali said that doctors told him that her chance to survive was just 30% and that how her social media revelation about her diagnosis resulted in high testing rates for the disease. Sonali announced her diagnosis in a tweet in 2018. A part of her statement read, "Sometimes

when you least expect it, life throws you a curveball. I have recently been diagnosed with high-grade cancer that has metastasised, which we frankly did not see coming. A niggling pain led to some tests, which led to this unexpected diagnosis. My family and close friends have rallied around me, providing the best support system that anyone can ask for. I am very blessed and thankful for each of them." In a new interview with Bollywood Bubble, Sonali said, "doctors told me that I had stage 4 cancer and my chance of survival

is 30% percent." She also revealed that how her social media post about her cancer diagnosis increased the testing rates. Sonali said, "At one point, Goldie (Behl) sent me a photo of a newspaper's headline stating that after my news came out and after I started speaking about it, the testing went up and many people went up to get tested." She added, "Today everyone is talking so casually about it. Four years back, it wasn't like that. So today I accept it was important and glad that I could make that conversation."





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